





# Palestinians eye new calls for change in Arafat's government

RAMALLAH (AFP) — Members of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah group may renew calls for him to change the Palestinian National Authority's (PNA) cabinet because of corruption charges, officials here said Friday.

"There is a serious movement in Fatah which wants to examine a change in government," said an official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) faction.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said members of Fatah on the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) are to meet in Ramallah Saturday to discuss "several pressing

issues, primarily this one [government change]."

The 88-member council, where Fatah holds about two-thirds of the seats, issued a call last July for a complete change of the cabinet after an internal audit showed extensive corruption and mismanagement in PNA ministries.

After the call, most of the 22-member cabinet offered to resign. Mr. Arafat has not yet ruled on the offers.

Since then, the issue has moved to the back burner as the crisis in the peace process with Israel grew, and the council went into recess until earlier this month.

Fatah delegates are to debate Saturday whether

the time is right to bring the issue back onto the agenda.

"There are two trends among Fatah delegates. One wants to delay consideration of the internal situation due to the political circumstances [in the peace process]," said PLC member Yasser Amr.

"The other feels that precisely because of the political situation, the internal situation must be dealt with and strengthened," he said.

"The strengthening of our internal front has deep support in the Palestinian public; it is one of their demands. Even if Saturday's meeting decides to delay consideration, it will only be for a short time," he said.

But he cautioned that debate on a government shake up "must not be rushed. Changes must be made in the PNA's various agencies so that any shake up is not just a change in faces."

PLC member Marwan Barghout, also the top Fatah official in the West Bank, said a government change must go deeper, to correct what he called an "unhealthy relationship between the [Palestinian National] Authority and the council."

He pointed to the Gaza-based PNA's lack of accountability to the Ramallah-based PLC, noting "the failure of the authority to sign laws

passed by the council and to put government reports through the council" for debate.

The calls for government change came after an internal audit by the PNA published in May which said the ministries had mismanaged some \$326 million in funds.

PLC investigations into the report fingered three of the PNA's ministers in particular for abuse of their positions and corruption.

The debate, triggered by the cabinet resignation, was unprecedented and struck a chord with the Palestinian public. A poll issued Wednesday said 64.9 per cent of Palestinians believe the PNA is corrupt.



PRAYING IN THE STREET: Palestinians pray in the streets for Friday noon prayers outside the mosque in Dura, close to the West Bank town of Hebron. Israeli security forces closed the Dura mosque on September 22 for its alleged close ties with the fundamentalist Hamas movement. Israeli Radio reported Friday that Israeli troops this week trained for a possible all-out war with the Palestinians including the possibility of PLO fighters storming Jewish settlements (Reuters photo)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Havel criticises Israel over settlement

TEL AVIV (AP) — Gently criticising Israel, visiting Czech President Vaclav Havel suggested Thursday that it might be unwise to expand Jewish settlements at this time. Mr. Havel spoke a day after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's announcement that construction in Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would continue, and that 300 more units would be built in the settlement of Efrat. Asked about settlement construction, Mr. Havel said: "I think in the current situation any kind of building should be reflected on against the background of reality." Mr. Havel said that in the quest to achieve lasting peace, both parties must be willing to "give up on something."

### Aideed's faction claims victory

MOGADISHU (AFP) — The Somali faction headed by south Mogadishu strongman Hussein Mohammad Aideed said on Friday that it had defeated a rival group after two days of fierce fighting in the town of Baldoia. At least 14 people were killed and 17 other wounded during the clashes which pitted Mr. Aideed's fighters against the Rahaween Resistance Army (RRA) in Baldoia, 250 kilometres west of Mogadishu, on Wednesday and Thursday. Abikar Qali, spokesman for Mr. Aideed's "transitional government" in south Mogadishu said Mr. Aideed's militia forced the RRA fighters out of Baldoia, inflicting heavy casualties on them. Mr. Aideed's United Somali Congress/Somali National Alliance (USC/SNA) "government" is reported to have sent 18 battle wagons to Baldoia on Thursday to reinforce militiamen stationed there.

### Egypt to compensate farmers for losses

CAIRO (AP) — The government has allotted \$4 million to compensate farmers whose sugar cane fields were destroyed by security forces trying to deny Muslim militants hideouts, a government official said Thursday. Militants in southern Egypt have often fled to sugar cane fields after carrying out attacks. The compensation would cover damage to 239 acres of sugar cane in the towns of Mellawi, Abu Qurgas and Deir Mawas in southern Minya province. Egypt's Middle East News Agency quoted Mustafa Abdul Qader, the governor of Minya, as saying, "It must not clear how many farmers would receive compensation or if the government plans payments to other farmers."

### 43% of Israelis believe things can get worse

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israelis head into the Jewish new year next week in a pessimistic mood, with 43 per cent of them convinced that things can only get worse, according to an opinion poll, published Thursday. Only 30 per cent of those questioned for the survey published in the Maariv newspaper believe that life for Israelis will improve in the year 5758, which begins Thursday. Twenty per cent said things would remain the same and the rest had no opinion. Maariv said this year's poll showed a "significant" rise in pessimism in virtually all domains.

## Lebanon rejects Israel's conditional pullout offer

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Prime Minister Rafik Hariri Thursday rejected Israel's proposal for a troop withdrawal from Lebanon, saying Israel's preconditions would make his country "responsible for every security incident inside Israel."

Lebanon has called repeatedly on Israel to withdraw its soldiers unconditionally from southern Lebanon, and has rejected Israel's demand that it crack down on Hizbollah before any such withdrawal.

Earlier this month, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu offered to withdraw soldiers from southern Lebanon on condition that the Lebanese army blocked attacks against Israel.

Such an agreement would make Lebanon "responsible for every security incident

inside Israel," Mr. Hariri told Future Television in a lengthy interview that began late Wednesday night and stretched into early Thursday.

Israel has occupied a "self-declared" security zone in south Lebanon since 1985. The estimated 1,500 Israeli soldiers and 2,500 allied Lebanese militiamen patrolling the enclave — 10 per cent of Lebanon's territory — have become bogged down in a war of attrition spearheaded by Hizbollah.

On Thursday, the fighters fired rockets and mortar shells at an outpost of an Israeli-allied militia in southern Lebanon village of Beit Yehoun, wounding two militiamen and a civilian woman. Lebanese security officials said.

Hizbollah, or Party of God, claimed responsibility for the

attack.

A Hizbollah spokesman in the southern port city of Sidon said the guerrillas also fired rockets and mortars at an armoured Israeli patrol in Beit Yehoun but no casualties were reported.

Also Thursday, outposts manned by the pro-Israeli militia came under rocket and mortar attacks near the village of Baraachit and in an area in Iqim Al Tuffah facing the occupied zone. No casualties were reported and there was no claim of responsibility. It is widely believed that Syria, which maintains 40,000 soldiers in Lebanon, wants to keep Israel embroiled in Lebanon to pressure Israel to return the Golan Heights to Syria. Israel seized the strategic plateau in the 1967 Middle East war.

## Lebanese premier seeks Syrian help to resolve political crisis

BEIRUT (AP) — Prime Minister Rafik Hariri flew Thursday to Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon, amid a governmental crisis caused by the cabinet's rejection of his reconstruction plan.

The cabinet voted 13-11 Wednesday to reject Hariri's plan to increase prices and sales taxes to raise \$1 billion for funding rural development and for resettling persons displaced during Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war.

The cabinet's rebuff was the biggest setback in Mr. Hariri's five-year-old career.

The left wing newspaper Al

Safir said Thursday that the cabinet vote was a "political defeat... that threatens to explode at any moment."

Several leading cabinet ministers, notably those allied to Hariri's main rival, parliamentary speaker Nabih Berri, opposed the hikes in the plan. Labour unions threatened to call a national strike if, as envisaged, gasoline went up 50 per cent and a five per cent sales tax was imposed on everything except food and medicines.

After the cabinet vote, Mr. Hariri gave a 3 1/2-hour interview to his own television

channel, Future, to explain the plan and emphasise that he will not resign over the crisis.

Early Thursday, Mr. Hariri left for the Syrian capital, Damascus. No official reason was given, but Future said he will meet with Syrian officials, as he regularly does when faced with difficulties.

Damascus wields enormous influence in Lebanon, where it maintains about 40,000 troops across two-thirds of the country. Syria could also work out a compromise to save Mr. Hariri's plan since Mr. Berri also is pro-Syrian.

## Iraq warns it may stop pumping oil for lack of pipeline spare parts

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq Thursday warned that it may be forced to stop pumping oil through the Iraq-Turkey route if it does not receive spare parts needed to repair the pipeline.

Information Minister Human Abdul Khaliq accused the U.N. Sanctions Committee, which approves exports to the sanctions-ridden nation, of holding up the spare parts under pressure from the United States.

A disruption of Iraqi oil sales is likely to unsettle the world petroleum market.

In a statement to the official Iraqi News Agency, Mr. Abdul Khaliq asked: "If the pipeline breaks down now because of lack of spare parts, will the reasons be clearly stated?"

Or, he asked, will "the Sanctions Committee and the U.N. Security Council — that are subordinate to America — say the Iraqi government is not

implementing its commitments?"

Mr. Abdul Khaliq said Iraq made the request nine months ago but "the Sanctions Committee has not even bothered looking" at the contract for the sale of the spare parts.

The minister did not say what spare parts were needed or when Iraq will carry out its threat to stop pumping the oil.

The Kirkuk-Yumurtalik pipeline carries 60 per cent of oil that Iraq has been allowed by the United Nations to export in a temporary relief from the crippling economic sanctions imposed after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Under the U.N. plan — aimed at easing the hardships on common Iraqi people — the government of President Saddam Hussein has been twice allowed to sell \$2 billion worth of oil over a six-month period and use the money to buy food and other humanitarian

goods. The second six-month period of the oil-for-food deal started in June.

Iraq has in the past frequently accused the United States, which is a member of the Sanctions Committee, of holding up approval of sale contracts to bar Mr. Saddam's regime.

In a related development, the U.N. announced Thursday that a fourth entry point at the Iraq-Syria border has opened for trucking in food items under the oil-for-food deal.

Six more entry points will open as food items start arriving, said Eric Fall, the spokesman of the U.N. oil-for-food programme office in Baghdad.

Iraq's Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh told the Iraqi News Agency that the U.N. has approved six contracts under the second six-month phase of the oil-for-food deal.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

#### PROGRAMME TWO

14:10 .....Twinkle  
14:30 .....Muppet Show  
15:00 .....Blue Heels  
15:30 .....World of Geo  
16:00 .....The Valley Between  
16:30 .....Tilt  
17:00 .....French programmes  
19:00 .....Le Journal  
19:30 .....News headlines  
19:35 .....Neighbours  
20:00 .....The Newly Weds  
20:30 .....Prism  
21:10 .....Time Trax  
22:00 .....News in English  
22:30 .....Feature film  
23:59 .....End of T.V.

### PRAYER TIMES

04:05 .....Fajr  
05:22 .....(Sunrise) Doha  
11:27 .....Dhuhr  
14:52 .....Asr  
17:31 .....Maghreb  
18:49 .....Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweifeh, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel.  
632785.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation  
Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661656.  
Terre Sancta Church Tel.  
622366  
Church of the Annunciation

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.  
Armenian Catholic Church  
Tel. 771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church  
Tel. 775261.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel.  
771751.  
Amman International Church  
Tel. 5516245  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Tel. 823428.  
German-speaking Evangelical  
Congregation Tel. 845457  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.  
654932.  
Church of Nazareth Tel.  
675691.  
The Evangelical Local Church  
in Amman Tel. 811295  
English-speaking  
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.  
614190.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology  
Relative mean weather conditions will prevail with temperatures higher than average by 2-3 degrees centigrade, clouds appearing at different altitudes, and winds southwesterly moderate to active. On Sunday, temperatures are expected to drop significantly with a chance of scattered showers in

the northern parts of the Kingdom. In Aqaba, it will be relatively hot, winds northerly moderate to active, and seas calm.

Min/Max temp.  
Amman .....18/32  
Aqaba .....22/37  
Deserts .....16/35  
Jordan Valley .....22/36

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 27 Aqaba 35 Humidity  
readings: Amman 36 per cent,  
Aqaba 25 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Youssef Naser .....751144  
Dr. Issam Asmar .....890504  
Dr. Khalid Al-Khouri .....816715  
Dr. Nidal As'ad .....751672  
Firas pharmacy .....661912  
Ferdows pharmacy .....778336  
Al Asena pharmacy .....637055  
Nairoukh pharmacy .....623672  
Al Salam pharmacy .....644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy .....637660  
Najih pharmacy .....847632  
IRBID:  
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakr .....276852  
Al Quds pharmacy .....(—)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Khalil Salibi .....914144  
Khalifeh pharmacy .....985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre .....637111  
Civil Defence Department .....661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue .....630341  
Civil Defence Emergency .....199  
Rescue Police 192 .....621111,  
637777  
Fire Brigade .....617101  
Blood Bank .....775121  
Highway Police .....843402  
Traffic Police .....896390  
Public Security Department .....630321  
Hotel Complaints .....605800  
Price Complaints .....661176  
Water and Sewerage Complaints .....897467  
Amman Municipality Complaints .....787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) .....121  
Overseas Calls .....010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs .....623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs .....661101  
Jordan Television .....773111  
Radio Jordan .....774111  
Water Authority .....680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority .....815615

Electric Power Company .....636381  
RJ Flight Information 08-53200  
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Husseini Medical Centre .....813813/32  
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn .....644281/6  
Aldah Maternity, J. Amn .....642441/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity .....642362  
Malhas, J. Amman .....636140  
Palestine, Samelsani .....607071  
Shmeisani Hospital .....669131  
University Hospital .....845845  
Al-Muasher Hospital .....667227/9  
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali .....664164/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen .....777101/3  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh .....775111/26  
Army, Marjeh .....891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50  
Amal Hospital .....674155  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery .....865199  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital .....(09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital

09:000560  
Ibn Sina Hospital .....(09)986732  
Al Hikam Modern Hospital .....(09)990990  
IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital .....(02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital .....(02)272275  
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital .....(02)347100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital .....(03)314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights is obtained on telephone (08) 52700 or (08) 53220.

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
07:05 .....Damascus (RJ)  
08:45 .....New Delhi (RJ)  
09:25 .....Beirut (RJ)  
09:25 .....Beirut (RJ)  
09:30 .....Karachi, Dubai (RJ)

10:30 .....Aqaba (add) (RJ)  
10:40 .....Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)  
11:20 .....Colombo (RJ)  
14:55 .....New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
16:15 .....Cairo (RJ)  
17:30 .....Tunis (add) (RJ)  
18:10 .....London, Berlin (BA)  
01:30 .....Madrid (RJ)

04:30 .....Bangkok (RJ)  
Other Flights  
05:10 .....Jakarta (GA)  
06:05 .....London, Damascus (BA)  
09:30 .....Al 'Arish (PF)  
12:00 .....Riyadh (SV)  
12:10 .....Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)  
14:05 .....Vienna (OS)  
15:30 .....Dubai (EK)  
16:00 .....Doha (QR)  
17:25 .....Antalia (TK)  
19:10 .....London (GA)  
20:10 .....Paris, Damascus (AF)  
21:15 .....Cairo (MS)  
22:25 .....Beirut (ME)  
00:15 .....London (BA)  
02:00 .....Rome (AZ)  
Royal Wings (RW)  
(No flights on Saturday)

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
05:45 .....Beirut (RJ)  
08:00 .....Aqaba (add) (RJ)  
09:30 .....Tunis (add) (RJ)  
12:00 .....Geneva, Madrid (RJ)

12:05 .....Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
12:05 .....Brussels (RJ)  
12:10 .....Paris (RJ)  
12:15 .....Cairo (RJ)  
13:05 .....London (RJ)  
20:10 .....Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)  
20:25 .....Jeddah (RJ)  
20:45 .....Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
20:50 .....Bombay (RJ)  
21:00 .....Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

Other Flights  
03:00 .....Rome (AZ)  
03:00 .....Athens (OA)  
05:50 .....Larnaca (CY)  
06:10 .....London (GA)  
06:55 .....London (BA)  
07:10 .....Damascus, London (BA)  
10:30 .....Al 'Arish (PF)  
13:00 .....Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)  
13:30 .....Riyadh (SV)  
14:50 .....Vienna (OS)  
16:45 .....Dubai (EK)  
16:50 .....Doha (QR)  
18:25 .....Antalia (TK)  
20:10 .....Jakarta (GA)  
22:15 .....Cairo (MS)  
22:55 .....Damascus, Paris (AF)  
23:25 .....Beirut, Amsterdam (RJ)  
03:00 .....Rome (AZ)  
03:00 .....Athens (OA)

Royal Wings (RW)  
(No flights on Saturday)

## Home

Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince and Princess Haya have visited the yearly charitable festival of the Jordanian Red Cross Society, which is held annually in Amman. The festival is a major event for the Jordanian Red Cross Society, which is a member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The festival is held in Amman, Jordan, and is attended by thousands of people. The festival is a major event for the Jordanian Red Cross Society, which is a member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The festival is held in Amman, Jordan, and is attended by thousands of people.

## 30 NCP mem

### Aqaba branch

The National Congress Party (NCP) has announced the formation of a new branch in Aqaba. The new branch is headed by a prominent local figure. The NCP is a political party in Jordan, and it has been active in various parts of the country. The formation of the new branch in Aqaba is a significant step for the party, as it shows its commitment to expanding its reach and influence in the region.

## Population policy

### Workshop to open

A workshop on population policy is set to open in Amman. The workshop is organized by the Jordanian government and is aimed at discussing the challenges and opportunities of population growth in Jordan. The workshop will bring together experts and officials from various government departments to discuss the issue. The workshop is expected to provide valuable insights and recommendations for the government's population policy.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### DAR AL FUNN

The Dar al Funn festival is taking place in Amman. The festival is a cultural event that features a variety of performances, including music, dance, and theater. The festival is held in Amman, Jordan, and is attended by thousands of people. The festival is a major event for the Jordanian cultural scene, and it is expected to provide a platform for local artists to showcase their talents.





Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath Friday attend the yearly charitable festival of the International Baccalaureate School (IBS) and tour its various sections. Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath looked at the various cultural, sports, and art activities carried out by students from the IBS, as well as physically-handicapped children from the Young Women's Muslim Association (YWMA) and Al Hussein Society for the Physically Handicapped. Also attending the festival were Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid and Princess Majda, as well as several Princes and Princesses. The festival includes sports and cultural competitions, art performances, handicrafts, costumes, and horse riding. The festival has the goal of raising funds to support Al Hussein Society for the Physically Handicapped and the Jordanian Child Welfare Society (Petra photo)

## 30 NCP members from Karak, Aqaba branches resign

By Francesca Ciriaci  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Thirty members from the Karak and Aqaba branches of the National Constitutional Party (NCP) resigned Friday in protest of "self-centredness and tyranny within the party."

In two identical and brief communiqués, the signatories indirectly protested against the leadership of NCP Secretary General Abdul Hadi Majali, describing it as a "one-man control" over the party.

Twelve of the 30 resignees belonged to the NCP Aqaba branch.

Yesterday's was the third "wave" of resignations the NCP has faced in the past few

days.

Among the 18 resignees from the Karak branch appeared at least seven signatures by members of the Majali tribe, providing a possible link between the current flood of defections in the NCP and a family dispute within the Majalis.

A tribal controversy flared within the prominent Karak tribe three weeks ago, when Amjad Hazza Majali challenged Abdul Hadi Majali's decision to run in the Nov. 4 elections in the same district as his kinsman.

In various announcements published in the major Arabic dailies, Amjad Hazza Majali rejected Abdul Hadi Majali's nomination as undemocratic and unfair and called for trib-

al by-elections to choose the family candidate.

In a development that informed sources considered related, the Chairman of the NCP Higher Steering Committee, Akif Fayed, resigned last week, citing "authoritarian and unilateral decisions taken by the [NCP] leadership, lack of consultation in decision-making, in addition to repeated violations of the party's statute," as the reasons behind his decision.

Before Mr. Fayed's resignation, 25 members from the NCP Irbid branch had resigned, also last week.

The NCP is scheduled to announce its ticket and platform in a press conference later today.

## Population policy workshop to open Sunday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Sunday will hold a training workshop on population policies and sustainable development.

The workshop is the fourth in a series of training workshops organised in cooperation with the United Nations Fund for Population Technical Support Team for the Arab World and Europe. It aims to support Arab countries' efforts to formulate and implement population policies that are in line with the objectives of the 2nd Amman Declaration for Population and Development of 1993, the Pan-Arab Plan on Child Care, Protection, and Development of 1992, and the International Plan of Action adopted by the International Conference

on Population and Development held in Cairo in 1994.

The workshop also aims to promote awareness of reproductive rights and health and to train participants in formulating national strategies on reproductive health and in developing indicators of same.

It will provide an opportunity for participants to exchange information, expertise, and skills on population issues, sustainable development, and reproductive rights and health. Taking part in the workshop will be representatives for the national population councils in Jordan, Palestine, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Iraq, Oman, Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco, Yemen, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Syria, and Kuwait.

## Seven municipal employees to stand trial today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Seven Amman Greater Municipality employees will stand trial today at the Court of First Instance on several charges, ranging from counterfeiting to accepting bribes to forge official documents.

The Amman prosecutor is expected to read the charge sheet today for the seven defendants, which also includes a charge of abusing their post by forging official documents.

Meanwhile, police are investigating a forgery case at a local bank, where a non-Jordanian managed to forge a bank client's signature and escape to his country with JD1 million, according to official sources.

The source said the suspect, who was not identified, forged a 70-year old man's signature and obtained a check book from the bank, "and in a four-month period withdrew the victim's entire account and fled the country."

**Correction**

In the Jordan Times' Thursday-Friday edition, a report quoted HRH Crown Prince Hassan's address, delivered by the prime minister, to an international conference on "Aviation Infrastructure for Growth and Efficiency" as saying (in the fourth paragraph): "We have started privatising state-owned enterprises through a process that will increase their value to society and replacing public monopolies with private monopolies," adding that privatisation can succeed if enterprises operate on a commercial basis and in a competitive environment. The paragraph should have read as follows: "We have started privatising state-owned enterprises through a carefully studied process that will increase their value to society. Replacing public monopolies with private monopolies will not necessarily lead to benefits. Privatisation can only succeed if such enterprises operate on a commercial basis in a competitive environment." The Jordan Times apologises for the inadvertent omission of a line in that paragraph.

**WHAT'S GOING ON**

**DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '97 FESTIVAL**

- \* Graphics by Rana Nasiri of Iraq.
- \* Ziad Dalloul of Syria, and Najia Mahdaji at the South Hall.
- \* Paintings by Jordanian artist Mohamed Qaloka at the Middle Hall.
- \* Sculpture, drawings, and paintings by Jordanian artist Rajwa Ali.
- \* Works by contemporary

**EXHIBITIONS**

- \* Arab artists at the Blue House.
- \* Paintings by children of Zarqa reflecting on the problem of pollution at the Byzantine church.
- \* "The Projects of the Essence: Aspects of Italian Painting in the 90s" at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Oct. 2.
- \* Works by Khelif Mahmoud Khelif at Hamourabi Art Gallery, Gardens Street, until Oct. 2 (Tel. 5336098).
- \* Paintings exhibition entitled "La Radioactive" at the French Cultural Centre, until Sept. 30.
- \* Paintings by Palestinian artists entitled "Palestine the Reality and the Dream" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 2 (except Tuesdays).

# King Hussein urges public sector support for Al Amal Cancer Centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein urged various members of the public sector to support the efforts of the national task force responsible for Al Amal Cancer Centre and praised institutions and individuals who have been backing the centre's efforts.

During a meeting at the Royal Court, attended by the members of the centre's board of trustees, King Hussein underlined the importance of the centre's role in safeguarding public health and said all efforts should be pooled to support the centre so that it can continue to operate as a scientific centre.

The King thanked Jordanian, Arab, and other institutions and individuals who he said have so far maintained their support for the centre and expressed appreciation for the efforts exerted by Abdullah Khatib, rapporteur of the board of trustees, who spearheaded efforts for the creation of the centre.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Dr. Khatib, and the board's members voiced their appreciation for the King's support of the centre's activities.

King Hussein conferred Al Hussein Medal of the First Order upon Dr. Khatib in recognition of his efforts enabling the centre to carry out its vital service to the nation.

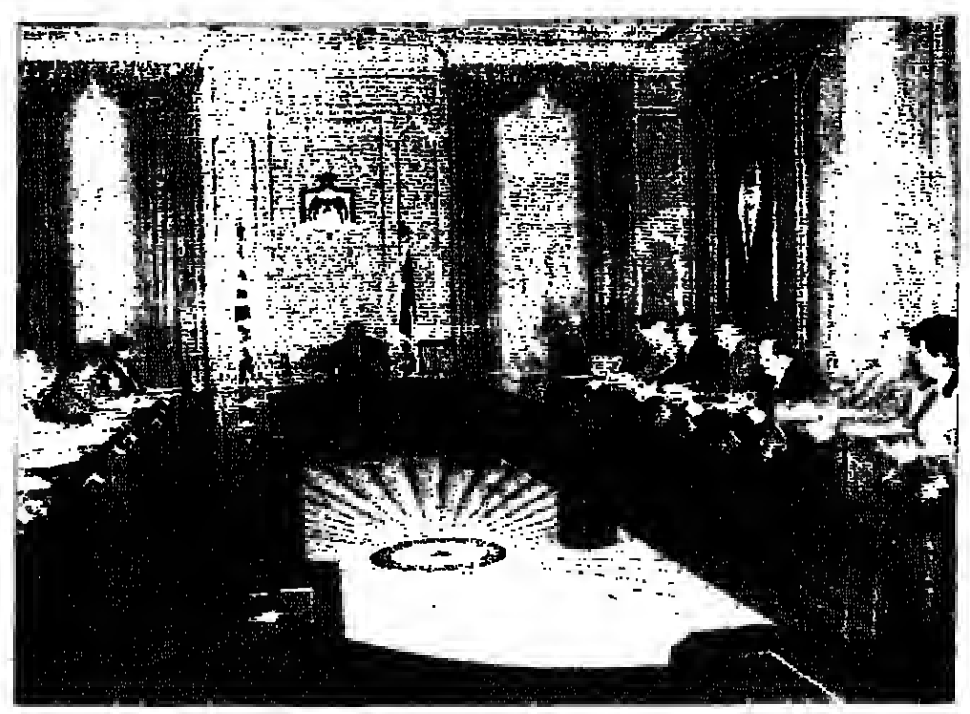
Last month, Minister of Social Development Muhammad Mansur urged the government to assist Al Amal Cancer Centre by halting the referral of cancer patients for treatment abroad and instead sending them to the centre, which is located near the University of Jordan.

Dr. Mansur said government departments and public hospitals have heretofore referred no cancer patients to the centre, but rather directed them abroad.

The medicine and drugs at the centre are nearing their expiration date and the centre lacks funds to pay staff salaries and other expenses, such as utilities, the minister told the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Al Amal Cancer Centre is presently run by a task force headed by Dr. Khatib, who previously estimated that 3,000 to 4,000 cancer patients are diagnosed annually in Jordan.

Al Amal Cancer Centre's



His Majesty King Hussein holds a meeting at the Royal Court to discuss the level of support for Al Amal Cancer Centre. He urged the public sector to continue its support of the centre, considered to be the first comprehensive institute of its kind in the region (Petra photo)

120-bed in-patient facility is equipped for highly-advanced therapies such as bone marrow transplants and adult and paediatric chemotherapy.

The centre includes outpatient clinics and radio diag-

nostic, radiotherapy, and nuclear medicine departments.

The centre, a non-governmental, non-profit organisation, was created through contributions from Jordanian citizens and institutions.

Organisations in the Netherlands and other countries also assisted in setting up and supplying equipment for the centre, considered to be the first comprehensive centre for cancer research in the region.

## Ministry unable to provide full assistance for Kingdom's one million in poverty — minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — Between 55,000 and 60,000 families currently live below the poverty line and the Ministry of Social Development's limited budget is only able to provide limited assistance, according to Minister of Social Development Muhammad Mansur.

The minister, in an interview this week with Al Ra'i daily, referred to a 1996 World Bank report that estimated the rate of absolute poverty in Jordan at 21.8 per cent and abject poverty at 8.9 per cent, noting that those living below the absolute poverty line are no less than one million persons.

All the forms of aid offered to the poor and the unemployed fall short of the minimum required aid and are temporary assistance contributing to alleviating only a portion of poverty in the Kingdom, the minister said.

Of the ministry's 1996 budget, JD7.1 million, and

the 1997 budget, which did not exceed JD8 million, most of the allocations are spent on salaries and wages and as financial aid to the ministry's affiliated social institutions and the departments that care for the handicapped and orphans, according to the minister.

He stated that the budget of the National Aid Fund (NAF), approximately JD16.5 million in 1996 and JD21.866 million in 1997, is mainly spent in the form of monthly payments to needy families.

Of this budget, JD600,000 is spent on projects designed to rehabilitate poor families, but many of these projects have proven to be failures, according to Dr. Mansur, who added that the rate of poor families is growing every year despite this assistance.

Furthermore, the NAF staff have been discovering that many of the recipients of monthly aid are not actually

in need, the minister said, who stated that the fund's staff require more training to handle their tasks more efficiently and study the social conditions of families requesting aid.

He also complained that the private sector was providing very little assistance, pointing out that 70 per cent of the financial and other assistance offered to the poor comes from official institutions, while volunteer groups offer 25 per cent and the private sector five per cent.

The poor in Jordan are receiving assistance from nine official institutions, six national organisations, 835 Arab, local, and foreign charitable societies, and 850 cooperative societies.

He said the ministry, the NAF, and the other organisations lack a national strategy and a clear policy to deal with poverty, especially considering the rate of the poor continues to rise.

## Tarawneh meets with European ministers attending U.N. session

NEW YORK (Petra) — Foreign Minister Fayed Tarawneh Friday met with foreign ministers of 10 European countries currently attending the United Nations General Assembly session.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Tarawneh said the foreign ministers of Spain, Austria, Denmark, Italy, Belgium, Ireland, Finland, Portugal, Greece, and the U.K. voiced their countries' full support for Jordan's efforts to establish peace in the Middle East and strengthen the foundations of development and democracy in the Kingdom.

The European ministers said they look forward to signing the Jordanian-European partnership agreement and voiced Europe's support for the Middle East peace process, particularly the Palestinian and Arab rights, according to Dr. Tarawneh.

The ministers also

expressed their countries' resolve to intensify their efforts with the United States to push the peace process forward.

Also Friday, Dr. Tarawneh met with the Chinese and Turkish foreign ministers, who stressed their countries' interest in bolstering bilateral relations with Jordan.

The Turkish minister said his country has maintained long-standing and historic relations with the Arab World, adding that it will never harm the interests of its neighbouring Arab countries.

He stated that his country has decided to postpone the planned joint manoeuvres with the U.S. and Israel, scheduled for November, until further notice.

Dr. Tarawneh also discussed bilateral relations with the foreign ministers of India, Sudan, and Bahrain during three separate meetings.

## Audiological scientists use new technology to detect infants at risk of future hearing problems

By Rana Hussein  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A group of audiological scientists is trying to reduce hearing loss among children with new technology that can detect new-born babies at risk of hearing loss.

The Hearing Care Group, which started its services in May 1997, is a group of highly-qualified audiological scientists trying to raise awareness of the importance of neonatal hearing testing through the provision of a mobile hearing evaluation service, said rehabilitative audiologist Manal Hamzeh.

"Our aim is to screen every new-born baby in the Kingdom by the year 2000, and we have arranged to provide this service to all private hospitals in Amman, any time, six hours after birth," she said.

The idea behind the new service is to identify every child with a hearing loss and therefore intervene from day one, Ms. Hamzeh told the Jordan Times.

This way, she maintained, "we do not deprive the baby from auditory input necessary for developing normal language and speech."

"This service is open to the medical community through the gynaecologist and paediatricians of the parent and new-born," she said.

According to Ms. Hamzeh, in 1987 a breakthrough in hearing science allowed the development of a technology that can record the emissions of the cochlea (the inner ear) that are reflected when sound enters.

"Now this technology is integrated into a mobile personal computer easily used on new-borns, and it will reach almost 99 per cent of the babies in U.S. hospitals by the end of 1997," she said.

Although the mobile hearing screening service is a new technology and a universal programme with a breakthrough in cost-effective screening procedures for hearing problems, she asserted, "it should be first adopted with the awareness of parents and the medical community."

If undetected and untreated, hearing loss can lead to delayed speech and language development, social and emotional problems, and academic failure, she said.

As many as six infants in 1,000 have a significant hearing disability, according to a pamphlet issued by the American Academy of Audiology.

Most of these are permanent sensorineural losses and



Audiological scientist Louise Jones Masri conducts a hearing screening test on a baby at the Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery (Photo by Rana Hussein)

hearing will not improve with age, the pamphlet said.

When the team identifies children with hearing losses, Ms. Hamzeh said, they provide complete diagnostic services to confirm the loss and the degree-nature (where the problem in the hearing mechanisms is located), therefore providing the appropriate medical and/or audio logical intervention services.

Louise Jones Masri, an audiological scientist, stressed the importance of people's awareness that this test is important and that it should be a routine.

"The fact that we have a new technology that allows us to carry out the test efficiently makes it very effective to separate those who are at risk of hearing loss," she

said.

"Our target could be reached when all mothers are aware of the risks of delayed diagnosis of hearing loss among children and when hospitals, gynaecologists, and paediatricians include the hearing screening package in hospitals as an essential element of health care or preventive health care service," she concluded.



## NATO hopes to bolster Bosnia mission with Russia on board

NEW YORK (AFP) — NATO hopes to bring Russia firmly on board in the effort to bolster the Bosnia peace mission when foreign ministers hold their first meeting of the NATO-Russia council here Friday.

Moscow and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) hope to "forge a shared objective in Bosnia" to isolate those who oppose the 1995 Dayton peace accords, a NATO official said.

"We expect a strong political message to emerge from this first meeting of the NATO-Russia council" that will give the peace effort "impetus," said the official. Established in May, the NATO-Russia partnership council has twice convened meetings in Brussels at the ambassadors' level but the New York meeting will be the first between foreign ministers.

The talks between NATO Secretary General Javier Solana and Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov

come as the United States is signalling that its 8,000 troops may stay on in Bosnia after the June 1998 deadline.

Belgian Foreign Minister Erik Derycke will also attend the meeting of the council, which allows a NATO country to participate in the forum on a rotating basis.

Diplomats said they hope that the meeting will help clear the air on Bosnia and show Bosnian leaders that efforts to divide European powers will prove futile.

Russia has bristled over the West's open support for Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic in her battle against strongman Radovan Karadzic.

Moscow has also recently complained that it has not been consulted on Bosnia, although the United States and Russia have downplayed those disagreements.

NATO hopes that the ministerial meeting to take place at U.N. headquarters will also officially launch mili-

tary cooperation between Russia and the alliance, according to the NATO official.

There have been few joint defence initiatives between the alliance and Moscow since Russia joined the Partnership for Peace programme in June 1994.

NATO and Russia will also agree on an agenda for the rest of the year and officials hope Moscow will soon appoint a new NATO envoy to Brussels.

A Radio Echo report from Moscow Tuesday quoted sources close to the Russian presidency as saying that Sergei Kislyak, a disarmament and security expert at the Russian foreign ministry, would be named to the post.

Former defense minister, General Pavel Grachev has also been floated as a possible candidate for the post.

In a six-page document to be reviewed Friday, NATO and Russia will agree to consult each other on disarmament, terrorism, nuclear

security among other issues.

Working groups are expected to be created to produce reports for the joint council.

French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine and his German counterpart Klaus Kinkel have both hailed the meeting as the first concrete push to the new NATO-Russia relationship.

NATO wants a "cooperative" relationship with Russia, Mr. Vedrine said, adding that the meeting would "give substance" to these new ties.

"The council will be a success," said Mr. Kinkel, before adding that Friday's meeting will allow "Russia to play on the same team" as Western powers.

NATO and Russian defense ministers will meet informally in Maastricht, in the Netherlands, early next month while the chiefs of staff will hold talks on Oct. 23 in Brussels.

A second foreign ministers' meeting is scheduled to be held in December.



Orange County firefighters help sandbag the home of a man as high surf driven by hurricane Nora flooded dozens of beachfront homes in Seal Beach, California. A drainage channel dug into the beach did little to relieve the damage. (Renter photo)

## Hurricane Nora kills three in California

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Hurricane Nora, which raged through Mexico's Baja California, plowed into the southwest of the United States with drenching rains that caused three traffic deaths in California, CNN said Friday.

The rain was the first in the Los Angeles area after a record dry spell of 219 days, and was unusually strong in the deserts of Arizona, which got their average yearly rainfall in less than 24 hours, according to local reports.

The hurricane, which early Friday was demoted from tropical storm to tropical depression, had crossed over Baja California and parts of Mexico, where it caused damage but no victims, before hitting southern California and Arizona.

The heavy rainfall made driving treacherous causing three storm-related traffic deaths in southern California, CNN said quoting the California Highway Patrol.

After sustained winds of more than 150 kilometres

an hour (nearly 100 miles per hour) tore through Baja California on Thursday when Nora was still classified as a hurricane, its power in predawn hours Friday had dropped to some 45 kilometres an hour, according to the National Weather Service in Miami, Florida.

In Mexico, where Nora reached land Thursday as one of the most powerful hurricanes in recent years, the combination of howling winds and high seas damaged port facilities at

Cedros Island on the Pacific coast, and across the Gulf of California in San Felipe, where 50 boats were lost.

However, Mexican authorities said early warnings posted up and down the coast prevented any loss of life.

Nora, the 17th storm of the 1997 hurricane season, made a rare incursion over the Gulf of California after crossing over a 1,200-metre mountain range in Baja California, Mexico's weather service said.

## Bosnia election result delayed by complaints

SARAJEVO (R) — Official results of Bosnia's municipal elections will be released at least 10 days later than originally planned because of the slow counting of votes and dozens of complaints, election organisers said.

The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which organised and supervised the poll, had planned to release the results a week after the election but now expects to announce them in the middle of next week.

"We are still on track for a Tuesday announcement of first results," Mr. Foley told Reuters Friday.

For every municipality there is a 72-hour period after ballots are counted during which complaints can be registered with the OSCE. All those complaints then need to be investigated, a process which can take several days.

Mr. Foley said there had been more than a hundred complaints so far. Party observers are present at the counting centres and have raised concerns over such things as the names on the voting register and a boycott by the main Croat Nationalist Party in the cen-

## Germany jails Bosnian Serb for life for war crimes

DUESSELDORF (R) — A German court Friday convicted a 50-year-old Bosnian Serb man of war crimes and sentenced him to life in prison for leading a death squad that massacred Muslims in Bosnia.

Nikola Jorgic was found guilty by the Dusseldorf court of 11 counts of genocide and 30 counts of murder as well as further assault and kidnapping charges.

Jorgic denied the charges during a nine-month trial, contending he was a victim of mistaken identity, and declined to make any further statement in court.

The verdict announced by Judge Guenter Krantz marked the first time that a non-German had been found guilty of genocide by a German court.

"Dozens of Nazi regime leaders were convicted of war crimes at the international Nuremberg war crimes tribunal after World War II," German justice officials initially offered a statement to the United Nations war crimes tribunal for former Yugoslav based in the Hague, which has indicted scores of people from the 1991-95 conflict in Bosnia and Croatia. "But Germany agreed to take on the case themselves because the tribunal was overloaded with work."

The life sentence for Jorgic corresponded with the demands of prosecutors.

Only after a council convenes, elects officers and adopts rules, will the OSCE finally certify the results for that municipality.

It is expected that most people will have voted along ethnic lines for nationalist parties.

Voter registration figures show that in several places

Croats and Serbs could lose control of towns taken during the war to Muslims, because of the high numbers of refugees allowed to vote in their pre-war municipalities.

This would effectively create local "governments in exile" and pose problems for those elected to take up their seats.

The leading Muslim nationalist party, the Party of Democratic Action, is expected to win in Srebrenica, where thousands of Muslim men are alleged to have been executed by Serb troops in 1995.

For those elected by the thousands of refugees, returning to Srebrenica to take up their seats in a council chamber will be a difficult, if not impossible task.

However until each person elected on Sept. 13 and 14 takes up his or her seat, the results of the election will remain unconfirmed.

The five-nation contact group, at a meeting in New York Wednesday, threatened "strict measures" against anyone who impeded the full implementation of the polls, but did not specify what they would be.

## Small change brings down rich Australian minister

CANBERRA (R) — Australia's deepening travel allowance scandal Friday brought down a millionaire landowner minister, who saw his career wrecked over a \$1,500 (\$1,080) bill for beds he never slept in and a plane he never took.

Science Minister Peter McGauran, a promising and ambitious National Party frontbencher, quit after admitting he had wrongly claimed travel allowances and the cost of a charter flight he never took.

Mr. McGauran, whose aristocratic rural family runs lucrative agricultural concerns and complex investments, was forced out over what he said were simple mistakes in his diary.

He joins ousted Transport Minister John Sharp and Administrative Services Minister David Jull, who resigned Wednesday in the worst crisis to hit prime minister "Honest John" Howard's 18-month-old government.

McGauran, 41, insisted he only made an honest mistake and quit to avoid any further embarrassment for the conservative Liberal-National government, which could go to the polls within 12 months.

"I am deeply saddened to be resigning my position today ... but do so to prevent any ongoing damage to my colleagues in government," he told reporters.

On March 15, 1996, two weeks after the coalition won power in Canberra, the youthful, red-haired Mr. McGauran was due to fly to the country town of Shepparton in Victoria state for a National Party function.

When the light plane took off from Melbourne, three state National Party colleagues were on board, but Mr. McGauran stayed behind working on ministerial paperwork.

However, he later claimed \$1,042 for the flight, he told parliament on Thursday. The claim also apparently contravened regulations against claiming party expenses.

## Afghan fighting rages close to anti-Taliban base in north

KABUL (Agencies) — Fierce artillery exchanges between Taliban forces and their northern opponents pounded areas close to the anti-Taliban base of Mazar-e-Sharif early Thursday, independent sources said.

Taliban fighters positioned within 35 kilometres east of the city kept up a barrage of heavy fire from dawn to mid-morning, but neither side appeared to win any gains from the battle, the sources said.

They said a number of rockets and shells struck areas in the eastern and southern edges of Mazar-e-Sharif, which is the only Afghan city not held by the Taliban and the opposition alliances seat of shadow government.

No further details on the exact location to the north or east of the city were immediately available.

Mazar-e-Sharif, situated around 310 kilometres north of Kabul, has been under Taliban attack for nearly three weeks.

Although Taliban fighters have not yet entered the dusty northern city, the main opposition supply route to frontlines north of the Afghan capital remain blocked.

Anti-Taliban forces include Shiite Moslem factions Hezb-e-Wahdat and Harakat-e-Islami, the ousted Kabul government and ethnic Uzbek fighters loyal to rival warlords Abdul Rashid Dostum or Abdul Malik.

Meanwhile, Taliban authorities have ordered all private hospitals in Kabul to close as part of a plan to return Afghanistan's health sector to its pre-Communist form, the movement's health minister said Thursday.

"Private hospitals are no longer allowed to function since we are trying to make the structure of our health system conform to that which existed before the Communist regime took power in 1978," Mullah Mohammad Abbas Akhund, the Taliban minister of public health told Reuters.

The 10 private hospitals in the capital have been given five days to close, he said.

Mullah Abbas said the closure would mean better service for Kabul residents because doctors have been more interested in treating private patients than those in public hospitals.

"With the presence of private hospitals, doctors do

not care much about the treatment of patients. Some of them work in both governmental and private hospitals," he said.

He also said that private hospitals were an economic burden on the people.

"They pay for the bed, treatment and food in private hospitals," he said. But some patients did not agree. Assadullah, a patient in one private hospital, said they were vital since most of the public hospitals are concentrated in one area of Kabul.

"I had appendicitis and my house is 40 minutes away from the public hospital. I would have not survived since I fell sick at night and there was no transport to take me to the public hospital," he said.

After almost five years of bitter civil war in Kabul, there is no ambulance service in the city and most patients have to rely on taxis to get to hospital. Also, nothing moves on the roads after the 10 p.m. curfew.

Many of Kabul's qualified doctors either fled during the fighting or because of the strict Islamic policies of Taliban, who captured it a year ago.

## Quake shakes mountainous central Italy

FOLIGNO, Italy (AP) — An earthquake jolted a mountainous swath of central Italy early Friday, killing at least two people and damaging buildings and some famed works of art, civil defense officials said.

The quake — the strongest in a series of tremors — was centred around the town of Foligno in central Umbria, but was felt as far away as Rome, about 150 kilometres southwest of the town, and heavily hit the town of Macerata, near the other, eastern coast of Italy.

A second sharp quake shook the area — and was felt in Rome — some nine hours after the quake, and the latest jolt caused more damage to the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi and some injuries to people inside, witnesses said.

Franco Barbieri, undersecretary for civil defence, said two people were killed and dozens injured. The confirmed dead were a couple, in their 80s, found in the rub-

ble of their old farmhouse near Macerata.

News reports said the couple had been warned to abandon the house after it was weakened by a recent quake in the area but had refused to leave.

Mr. Barbieri said an earlier figure he announced of three known dead was incorrect. Dozens of people were pulled out alive from under piles of debris, including a 7-year-old boy, Rai state TV reported.

A middle-school was reduced to rubble near Macerata, Rai said.

Officials said as many as 1,200 people abandoned their homes during the night. The streets were filled with workers and residents afraid to go inside their buildings.

"We're all scared," said Angelina Albertini after the mid-morning jolt rocked Foligno.

There was heavy damage to structures, including artistic monuments.

At least two Giotto Fres-

coes on the life of St. Francis in the Basilica of Assisi suffered minor damage, according to the Rev. Nicola Giandomenico. The works were done around 1300.

Several large cracks gashed the Romanesque 12th-century facade of Foligno's Cathedral.

The highest quake struck at 2:33 a.m. Local time and had a magnitude of 5.5, according to Rebecca Phipps, spokeswoman for the U.S. Geological Survey in Reston, Virginia. She described the quake as "moderate."

The region, dotted with historic towns like Assisi and Perugia, is a favourite attraction for pilgrims and tourists, and many foreigners, especially British, have restored farmhouses there as vacation or retirement homes.

Rai said police and officials in Rome received hundreds of calls from Romans jolted from sleep by the quake.

## U.S., Russia to sign deal that could spur arms cuts

NEW YORK (R) — The United States and Russia were expected Friday to sign a handful of arms agreements on missile defences that could finally clear the way for a new round of radical reductions in strategic weapons.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov and their counterparts from the former Soviet Republics of Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Belarus planned the ceremony for Friday afternoon on the fringes of the U.N. General Assembly.

With the agreement signings, Russian President Boris Yeltsin would be "armed with all the tools he said he needed to make a full court press in the Duma (parliament) for ratification" of the START-2 strategic arms reduction treaty, said Jack Mendelsohn, deputy director of the Arms Control Association.

Plans also called for the two sides to sign a protocol extending from the beginning of 2003 to the end of

2007 — a deferral of five years — the period stipulated for implementation of the START-2 treaty.

The treaty, signed in 1993 but never put into effect, would slash U.S.-Russian long-range nuclear arsenals by up to two-thirds and deprive Moscow of its cherished and most powerful weapon, heavy missiles with multiple warheads.

Negotiators from the five countries completed the texts of the missile defences agreements, which had been in the works for four years, last Aug. 21 in Geneva.

They aimed to address the spread of short-range ballistic missiles, dramatised by their use in the 1991 Gulf war in Iraq, and the increasingly popular development of systems designed to shoot them down.

The goal has been an accord that would permit so-called "theatre" anti-missile defence (TMD) systems without violating the 1972 U.S.-Soviet anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty, which limits defences against long-range

strategic missiles and has been considered a cornerstone of the arms control regime.

Last March's U.S.-Russia summit in Helsinki broke the logjam on the complex and politically-charged issue by setting limits on the speed and range of target missiles that could be used in testing theatre systems.

These were set at about 5 kilometres per second and about 3,500 kilometres respectively.

Work since then has focused on turning that outline accord into agreed texts.

While the U.S. Senate has ratified the START-2 treaty, the Duma has held back over fears that United States planned to break out of the ABM treaty by deploying multiple anti-missile defensive systems.

Many Russians fear they could not compete financially with the Americans in building comparable anti-missile systems. Hence, they would be even more dependent on their nuclear stocks and less inclined to

formally ratify START-2 because it codifies huge weapons reductions, experts say.

U.S. officials said this week they were freshly optimistic that with the agreement signings, Mr. Yeltsin would be in a position to push the START-2 treaty, a process that is now underway.

Mr. Primakov told President Clinton that while ratification by the Duma "remains a difficult issue," he had some higher degree of optimism that it would happen, a senior U.S. official said.

U.S. administration officials say that the TMD agreements will not prohibit any of the six missile defence programmes currently being researched or developed by the Pentagon.

But some Republicans in Congress have objected to a clause that bans either side from developing, testing or deploying space-based interceptor missiles, saying this would impede possible new technological breakthroughs.

disruption caused. The government has said demonstrations can only be held in seven fixed venues.

Dhaka's mayor, Mohammad Hanif, has called for talks Saturday and Sunday. But the BNP and the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami said the ban would have to be lifted first and supporters detained during recent strikes would have to be freed.

## Bangladesh BNP hints at talks to end strikes

DHAKA (AFP) — The opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has indicated it may accept talks with President Shahabuddin Ahmad over government restrictions on rallies which caused a general strike this week.

"We welcome the president's initiative and we are ready to respond to his call (for talks) any time," BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bbuiyan told

reporters, the official BSS news agency said.

The secretary general denied that Mr. Ahmed had asked BNP leader Khaleda Zia to call off Thursday's nationwide general strike, but she refused.

"It's true we had talks, but the press reports on the president's request is not correct," commented Mr. Bbuiyan.

Ms. Zia held talks with Mr. Ahmed and complained

against several government moves, following which the initiative came.

The BNP and the ruling Awami League of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed have blamed each other for violence that erupted during the strike. Reports said 200 were injured in incidents mainly outside Dhaka.

The stoppage was called to protest at a ban on rallies on major streets because of the

disruption caused. The government has said demonstrations can only be held in seven fixed venues.

Dhaka's mayor, Mohammad Hanif, has called for talks Saturday and Sunday. But the BNP and the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami said the ban would have to be lifted first and supporters detained during recent strikes would have to be freed.

Asian fire-fighters set up their own camp of fire fighting vehicles and South Sumatra. The ban on neighbouring Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. (Reuters photo)

## Yeltsin tells C

## Europe to ens

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# World News

## Yeltsin tells Chirac he wants Europe to ensure own security

**MOSCOW (R)** — U.S. Astronaut David Wolf blasted off for Russia's Mir space station Friday after getting last-minute NASA approval for a difficult mission involving months of vital repairs and probable surpris-

HANOI (R) — Vietnam's new prime minister Friday presented a cabinet line-up that included five deputy premiers, a move seen as decentralising executive power over key policy areas.

Political sources said that Phan Van Khai, 63, a popular reformist who was appointed premier after a near-unanimous vote in the national assembly the previous day, proposed keeping most ministers in their current posts.

But his team, which will be put to the legislature for a vote Monday morning, also included a young and rising political star, Nguyen Tan Dung, as deputy prime minister with special responsibility for the communist country's economic affairs.

Under the new line-up, army General Doan Khue — who lost his bid to become state president in this week's leadership reshuffle — would be replaced as defence minister by his deputy, Lieutenant-General Pham Van Tra.

Nguyen Manh Cam, who had also been mooted as a contender for the presidency, would stay on as foreign minister and become deputy prime minister in charge of

foreign affairs.

Mr Cam, 68, is seen as a career diplomat who rose through the ranks of officialdom by mending fences with the country's neighbours and its old enemy, the United States.

Cabinet members set to stay on included Interior Minister Le Minh Huong, Finance Minister Nguyen Sinh Hung and minister of planning and investment, Tran Xuan Gia. Cao Si Kiem, governor of the Central Bank, would also remain in his post.

After months of internal wrangling, which analysts say has put a brake on the economic reform drive, the party agreed to appoint technocrat and pragmatist Tran Du Luong, 60, as president. He takes over from army general, Le Duc Anh.

Mr Luong and Mr Khai now join the octogenarian communist party secretary general, Do Muoi, in the country's ruling triumvirate.

Political analysts say the absence of a military figure from a leadership structure that has always been finely balanced could herald further, protracted debate over who will take Muoi's place when he steps down.

Military political commissar and senior politburo member, Le Kha Phieu has long been a frontrunner for the country's most powerful position. But political sources say his star has waned in recent weeks, and they point to a little-known politburo figure, Nguyen Van An, as a strong contender.

Diplomats said five "super deputies" in charge of the economy, foreign affairs, agriculture, industry and science, technology and environment instead of three deputies without portfolios could unravel some of the red tape that has long hampered policy implementation.

"If you have more than three people in there you just have to deal with things in a different way," said one Western diplomat.

He said the new leaders and the proposed cabinet had strong reform credentials, and predicted that a string of recent mini-crises caused by structural rigidities in the economy would put immediate pressure on them to act.

Diplomats say the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank are

losing patience with the slowdown in reform along market lines, and will be looking for signs of a new drive in that direction after a key party meeting in November.

### Storm floods central Vietnam

Meanwhile, typhoon Fritz lost momentum as it swung west into Laos Friday, but left a trail of flooding in central Vietnam that damaged crops and hundreds of houses.

The U.S.-based independent forecaster Weather Services Corp. said that Fritz, now a tropical storm and still weakening, was centred over southern Laos.

Officials in Danang and Quang Ngai province said at least three people died and more than 50 were injured Thursday when the storm came ashore with winds of up to 100 kph.

The weather office in Hanoi said rainfall had been heavy, ranging from 100 to 250 mm, in coastal provinces from Thanh Hoa to Quang Ngai and in the central highlands north of Vietnam's main coffee-growing areas.

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## Duma backs anti-Yeltsin general

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## Britain's new Labour in self-congratulatory mood for party conference

LONDON (AFP) — As Britain's new Labour prepares for its first conference since winning back power in May, Prime Minister Tony Blair can pride himself on having turned the party around and made it the fastest growing in Europe.

With the party faithful gathering in the southern town of Brighton for next week's conference, which promises to be a self-congratulatory love-in, Mr. Blair can show that since he became Labour leader over three years ago party membership has almost doubled, from 220,000 to 420,000.

"Already a thousand people a week are joining new Labour making us the fastest growing political party in Europe," said Mr. Blair in a television commercial broadcast this week which ends with a plea for more people to hop on the party bandwagon.

To those who see nothing surprising in people scrambling to get on a winning team, Labour officials point out that the membership rush began long before the

general election. The Conservative Party claims it has up to 300,000 members but admits that membership rolls have not been brought up to date for several years. The average age of Tory members is around 65, in stark contrast with their 36-year-old leader William Hague. Mr. Blair, 44, is closer to members of his own party, most of whom are in the 30-35 age range.

"Most European parties have had a drop in their membership. The British Labour Party is increasing," said Party Secretary Tom Sawyer, who gives most of the credit for Labour's turnaround to Mr. Blair.

Labour leaders are convinced that what European Socialist and Social Democrat parties envy most about Labour is the formidable electoral machine it put in place before the general elections.

"I do know for a fact that all the European socialist parties are looking at our elections and what we did in Millbank," the Labour party's campaign headquarter

ters in London, said Sawyer.

At Millbank Tower, Labour moved into a 2,300 square metre office where 200 people put into practice electoral marketing techniques imported from the United States.

The party became expert at using spin-doctors to hammer home their electoral message in the media, using political guinea pigs to test slogans and targeting floating voters.

In addition, Labour had the services of "Excalibur," a computer specifically programmed to supply within seconds counter arguments to any Conservative challenges during the campaign.

It will be five years before Britons need to go to the polls again, but it seems certain other European countries who have elections sooner are likely to adopt the tried and tested methods of Labour.

## Irish minister hails 'joyous' news of N. Ireland peace talks

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The Irish Foreign Minister has briefed the U.N. General Assembly on the latest peace moves for British-ruled Northern Ireland, bailing the "joyous" news from Belfast.

"I now bring you the joyous news that yesterday in Belfast we succeeded in launching substantial and historic all party talks in which the future of a peaceful and agreed Ireland is to be mapped out," Foreign Minister Ray Burke said.

The British and Irish governments and eight of the 10 Ulster parties involved in the peace process signed up to a comprehensive agenda Wednesday which signalled the start of "substantive" dialogue.

"What is notable about all of these developments is that they were undertaken in partnership between the Irish and British governments," he said in a speech to the U.N. General Assembly session.

Mr. Burke attributed the quickening of pace in negotiations to changes in both Britain and Ireland.

But he particularly noted that "in Britain, there have been dramatic developments which redefine and reshape the nature of its political union" under the new Labour government of Tony Blair.

"I believe that this sense of change in both islands, this quickening pace, will be a very important factor as both governments and all the parties to the negotiations in Northern Ireland take the peace process forward," he said.

More importantly, it means that those who form part of that talks process have the opportunity to shape their future rather than surrender through indifference or apathy to the inexorability of change," Mr. Burke also paid tribute to U.S. President Bill Clinton's personal involvement in sharing "the risks for peace."

He stressed that both the British and Irish governments, "and I believe the parties currently in the talks process, are determined that this process will be pursued" and that "there will be no going back."

## Turkish army kills 44 Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq incursion

(Continued from page 1)

The Iranian and Iraqi borders with rockets Thursday night, the private television channel NTV reported. Four PKK members were killed in an ensuing fight NTV said, without specifying if there were casualties among the security forces.

A Turkish foreign ministry official called the air and ground operation "limited."

"Turkey has a terrorism problem originating in northern Iraq," spokesman Sermet Atacani told reporters. "From time to time it takes measures in the region to eliminate it."

He declined to say how many troops were involved.

The PKK has been fighting the Ankara government for an independent Kurdish state in Turkey's southeast since 1984. More than 26,000 people have been killed only in Turkish territory since the conflict's beginning.

Ankara says PKK rebels attack Turkish targets after infiltrating into the country from their northern Iraq camps.

The Turkish army has conducted three large-scale incursions involving more than 30,000 troops, into northern Iraq since 1992. In the last military campaign, nearly 30,000

troops entered northern Iraq in May and stayed there for five weeks to fight the PKK.

The Turkish military said it had killed more than 2,000 PKK rebels in the May-June campaign. The PKK said its losses were less than 200.

Turkish authorities have been preventing the media from crossing the border to cover the operations since May.

Iraq on Thursday urged an immediate withdrawal of the Turkish forces inside the country and Iran and Greece denounced the incursion.

## Israel arrests 15 Hamas members in West Bank

(Continued from page 1)

leaders in Gaza, where it also closed down 16 welfare institutions it said supported Hamas' "illegal activities."

In related news, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat has refused the resignation of a senior aide who said he was responsible for the Palestinian National

Authority's mistaken claims over Hamas' bomb attacks, Palestinian sources said Friday.

"Arafat met Tayeb Abdul Rahim Thursday and they reviewed his resignation, and in the end Mr. Arafat insisted he return to his post to continue his duties," said a Palestinian official who asked not to be named. Mr. Abdul Rahim, consid-

ered one of Mr. Arafat's top advisers, agreed to continue in his position as general secretary of the PNA, the official said.

He offered his resignation Wednesday saying he felt responsible for statements by Mr. Arafat that the suicide bombers behind two recent attacks in Jerusalem had come from abroad, not the Palestinian territories.

## Netanyahu clashes with security chiefs; Israeli army trains for all-out war with Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

Talks between Israelis and the Palestinians have been deadlocked since mid-March over Israel's settlement policy and the crisis deepened after two multiple suicide bombings in Jerusalem that killed 20 Israelis and which were claimed by Hamas.

Israeli troops trained in the West Bank this week for a possible all-out war with the Palestinians including the prospect of Palestinians storming Jewish settlements, Israel Radio said Friday.

The radio report coin-

cides with a six-month-long crisis in Middle East peacemaking over Jewish settlement construction in the West Bank and suicide bombings that have killed 20 Israelis in the last two months.

In the West Bank town of Jenin this week, a senior Palestinian security official told Reuters: "Israeli forces have been training with helicopters, tanks and troops near 21 settlements in the Jenin area following the deterioration in Israeli-Palestinian relations."

Israeli and Palestinian forces became locked in gunfights a year ago when

Palestinian protests erupted over Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's decision to punch a hole in a tourist tunnel near an Islamic holy site in Jerusalem.

The clashes killed 61 Palestinians and 15 Israelis.

The Israeli army has in the past confirmed that it has contingency plans for a major confrontation.

"There can be no doubt the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) are preparing for the worst. This is based on the assessments of the situation for which warnings have been given to the

political level in recent weeks," Israel radio's military correspondent said.

Carmella Menashe, the radio correspondent who is routinely briefed by the army, reported: "The IDF trained this week in the various sectors of Judea and Samaria [the West Bank] for the possibility of war in the territories."

She said soldiers trained for the possibility of returning to areas Israel had handed over to Palestinians under interim peace deals dating back to 1993.

"In the framework of the army response, the sol-

diers trained for the possibility of returning to 'A' areas, the areas of the Palestinian [National] Authority, and the occupation of main points in the West Bank, including preparations for the implementation of a new military administration," the radio reported.

"The soldiers trained for a scenario in which the Palestinians would occupy settlements [and] set fire to Joseph's tomb," she said in a reference to a holy site guarded by Israeli soldiers in the West Bank.

## Hamas leader in 'critical condition'

(Continued from page 1)

"All that happened was a quarrel between the driver of Mr. Misha'al and two Canadian tourists who were shopping in Tla'a Al Ali around 11 o'clock in the morning," said Dr. Mutawi.

"Mr. Misha'al's driver was following the two Canadian tourists, which actually provoked them and led to a quarrel, initially by hands, and then by throwing stones at each other which resulted of course in wounding all three of them," Dr. Mutawi had told the Jordan Times.

"At that moment, the police arrived at the scene and arrested the three. They searched the car of the two tourists and found nothing but a wallet, no weapons, no sharp instruments or articles, nothing but the two wallets of the Canadian tourists," the minister added.

Minister of Interior Nuhir Rashid confirmed Dr. Mutawi's account of the incident Thursday and added that a lieutenant in the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) interfered in the "dispute" between

Mr. Misha'al's guards and the Canadian nationals.

He added that three of those who took part in the "quarrel" were arrested and sent to the Bayadir Wadi Seer police station where they were interrogated.

However, Hamas leaders contradicted the two ministers' account of the incident and insisted that there was an attempt on the life of the Hamas chief.

"The issue is not a quarrel with Canadian tourists," said Mohammad Nazal, a Hamas politburo member, "it was an assassination attempt against Mr. Misha'al who was present at the scene when one of the Canadians approached him and placed an unidentified instrument on his head."

He told the Jordan Times on Thursday that a companion of Mr. Misha'al and his bodyguards moved to prevent the Canadian from harming their leader.

"Israeli security agencies are the first to be blamed for this attack," he said, "their objective is mainly to create unrest in Jordan and to target Hamas

leaders as well," Mr. Nazal added.

Following the incident, Mr. Misha'al was sent to the Islamic Hospital while one of his companions, who was hurt, was hospitalized in the KHMIC.

"We believe that it was a clear and premeditated assassination attempt against Mr. Misha'al, who was accompanied by his three kids," Mr. Nazal insisted.

Eyewitnesses who were present when the quarrel started told the Jordan Times that a "scuffle" occurred at the scene.

"I saw two foreigners quarrelling with some Jordanians. I interfered to cool them down and later on took some of them to a police station," said Sa'ad Al Khatib, a lieutenant in the PLA.

Lt. Khatib neither confirmed nor denied that the Canadians were carrying a "strange object" during the scuffle, saying that he gave his testimony to the police.

Mahmoud Abdul Karim, an Egyptian guard at the building where the incident took place,

said that he saw the guards of Mr. Misha'al quarrelling with "foreigners" and some people running after each other.

Steve Bennett, the Canadian charge d'affaire in Amman, said embassy staff had seen the two Canadians involved in the incident and that one of them had been taken to the hospital with minor injuries. Agence France Presse quoted him as saying:

He said the two "tourists" had been "involved in a confrontation in the street," but he did not have further details. The names of the two Canadians were not immediately available.

Most Hamas politburo members live in Jordan, including Ibrahim Ghosheh and the former politburo chief Mr. Abu Marzouk.

Mr. Misha'al took over Mr. Abu Marzouk's post after the Hamas chief was detained for violating immigration laws in the United States.

The alleged attack against Mr. Misha'al came in less than four days of an attack against two Israeli embassy officials, for which a previously unknown organisation claimed responsibility from Lebanon.

## Israel dismisses criticism of settlement; PNA continues crackdown on Hamas

(Continued from page 1)

European Union (EU) statement condemning the latest new building.

"One must not, while the peace process is in very, very great danger, take steps that are provocative," Mr. Chirac said.

"It's clear that any measures that tend now to create new construction are felt by the Palestinians to be provocative and, therefore, lead each time to more destabilisation of the peace process," he added.

The EU Thursday called Israeli plans to build 300 extra Jewish settlement units next to a West Bank settlement a "counterproductive move" for the Middle East peace process.

"It runs the risk of destroying the minimum level of confidence that must exist for the parties to negotiate a definitive solution," said Luxembourg Prime Minister Jacques Poos, speaking for the EU presidency.

Also on Thursday, the Arab League demanded the U.S. impose sanctions and freeze aid to Israel following their announcement of further settlement building.

"The United States must realise that there is no point criticising Israel and that it is time to impose sanctions on the Israeli government," said Said Kamal, Arab League deputy secretary general for Palestinian affairs.

"If this [Israeli] government continues with its settlement policies, the United States should suspend all its aid to Israel to force this extremist and right-wing government to change tack," he added.

The Levy-Abbas talks, which Ms. Albright is to chair, are expected to address Palestinian demands for a halt in settlement building and Israeli demands for a Palestinian crackdown on terrorism.

Palestinian security forces

arrested seven Hamas members overnight in a sweep which has so far arrested at least 27 members of the militant group in the West Bank town of Nabulus since Wednesday, security sources said.

On Thursday, Palestinian security forces launched their largest ever crackdown against Hamas' infrastructure, closing down 16 welfare associations run by the group and arresting several of its leaders in the Gaza Strip.

The PNA launched the offensive after Israel identified four men from a town near Nabulus as among the suicide bombers who conducted two attacks in Jerusalem on July 30 and Sept. 4, killing 20 Israelis.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat previously resisted U.S. and Israeli pressure for a widescale move against Hamas, saying the bombers had come from abroad.

Hamas condemned the crack-

down, saying the campaign was destroying the infrastructure of the Palestinian people, not Hamas.

"The people are the ones hurt first and foremost, not Hamas," said a spokesman for the militant group, Abdul Aziz Rantisi.

Israeli officials played down the campaign, saying they were not convinced the PNA would meet Israeli demands that it uproot Hamas from self-rule areas, the central Israeli condition for continuing the peace process.

"We must see if this is serious or if the Palestinians are once more following a revolving-door policy," said Netanyahu aide Danny Naveh, referring to Israeli complaints that Mr. Arafat had in the past arrested Hamas members only to release them soon after.

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# World's poor fear a high price for free markets

HONG KONG (AFP) —

The world's poorest nations fear their desperate need for aid may be ignored, forcing them to pay a high price for the free market economies advocated at global monetary talks in Hong Kong.

World Bank President James Wolfensohn told the international community Thursday to "act now" in the fight against poverty at the closing session of the talks.

IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus said the focus on turmoil in Asia made it "regrettable that African governors leave here with the feeling that progress in their countries is somehow on the back burner in our kitchen."

"It is not," he added. Richer countries have underscored the benefits of global flows of capital, freer economies and the fight against corruption during annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

But poorer nations complain the belief in free flows of capital, which the IMF is to take on as part of its mandate after winning backing in Hong Kong, is eroding the provision of official aid.

Developing nations in Asia and Africa, while understanding the need for freer markets, add that they may be left at the mercy of the huge private funds that have rocked South East Asia if such reform is pushed too fast.

China launched the developing nations' agenda at the start of the meetings Tuesday, with Premier Li Peng attacking the West for disre-

garding developing nations after winning the cold war.

"If the international community wants to concentrate on developing the economy in a peaceful and tranquil environment, then it cannot afford to ignore the reasonable demands of the developing countries," he said.

It must attend to their concerns over finance, debt, trade, environment and poverty issues, he said, attacking wealthy nations for interfering in the affairs of the less developed.

Financial policy makers from Africa and South Asia bemoaned the tapering off of official development aid in addresses to joint meetings here of the World Bank and IMF.

Africa said its debt burden was growing weightier and warned that a World Bank and IMF relief scheme must not be tied down by too many strings.

"Africa's debt burden has worsened, even though several African countries have benefited from various debt-relief schemes," Ethiopian Finance Minister Ahmad Sufian charged.

Bangladesh Finance Minister Shah Kibria lamented trends in flows of official development aid in which the total pool of such resources had remained steady in real terms despite higher needs.

The belief that a dramatic rise in capital flows eased the need for aid, "ignored the reality of the market place," he said, adding that poor countries — excluding China and India — received only 3.4 per cent of total private capital flows to developing countries.

According to the World Bank, official development assistance came to \$55 billion last year, when private capital flows were estimated at \$245 billion.

Pakistan's finance minister, Sartaj Aziz, insisted that "private capital flows are no substitute to concessional assistance — the former are directed towards profitable commercial ventures in fast growing economies while the latter are needed for building human capital and for alleviating poverty in a large number of low income nations."

The IMF and World Bank should "rely to the greatest extent feasible on the judgement of members as to pace" of market opening, Mr. Aziz added.

It was clearly good for developing countries to attract private capital, Mr. Aziz said, but it also left them vulnerable to "the volatile judgements and aggressive activities of foreign portfolio managers," he added.

Indian Central Bank Governor Chakravarty Rangarajan called on the IMF to change the way it calculates the voting power of its members because developing countries were missing out.

An agreement reached here to increase the IMF's capital base, while welcome, meant that "regrettably the voting share of developing countries has declined in the process," Mr. Rangarajan said.

The World Bank warned poor nations in return that corruption was a "significant impediment" to growth that drove away investors and forced the poor to pay

the highest price.

"A growing body of evidence ... shows corruption in developing countries is indeed a significant impediment, both to private investment and to the way in which the lives of ordinary people are affected," said Masood Ahmad, director of poverty reduction and economic management.

"It is the poor who pay the greatest price for corruption ... they are most likely to be affected by it," Mr. Ahmad said.

Mr. Wolfensohn Thursday urged the international community to "act now" in the fight against poverty in his message to the end of annual financial talks here.

"Let's not wait, let's try and focus on the issues now because waiting doesn't help," Mr. Wolfensohn said in his concluding remarks at the end of annual meetings of the World Bank and IMF.

The bank had a "real sense of urgency on poverty," he said, adding: "As leaders of all sections of the world, we just have to act now."

Mr. Wolfensohn ended the meetings the way he began by emphasising the fight against poverty. He has called the gap between rich and poor a "time bomb" and has urged a fresh assault on global poverty.

In the next three decades, with the world's population growing by 80 million a year, the number of people living with less than \$2 a day could rise from three to five billion, he said.

Mr. Wolfensohn said other priorities were the vital issues of education

and health, adding the World Bank was trying to really "engage in this fight" with a "medium-term commitment."

At a news conference shortly before the closing session, Mr. Wolfensohn described the annual meetings as "remarkably successful" and hailed them as a showcase of Asia's economic progress.

"I think that we were able to open up the issues that we were concerned about," he said, citing the issue of poverty and the need to include the poor in the process of economic development.

"Most significantly we were able to point out the importance of holding these meetings here in Hong Kong both to demonstrate the remarkable achievements of Asia ... and the reality of the currency situation," Mr. Wolfensohn said.

He said the financial crisis in South East Asia reminded "us all that there are some problems that appear from time to time in the growth path and we have to be ready to deal with them."

But Mr. Wolfensohn was cool to a regional initiative, backed by Japan, to set up a fund to bail out economies which run into trouble.

"I personally don't see a substantial basis for the individual fund," Mr. Wolfensohn said. The IMF already fulfilled the purpose for which the fund has been proposed, he said, adding, however, that it was up to the IMF and the initiators to discuss it.

"It's not part of our mandate and nor indeed are we

involved in current discussions. It is unlikely I think that the bank would participate because it is a regional activity and so I don't think there is a call for funds on behalf of the bank for that," the World Bank chief added.

South East Asian countries, their financial markets assailed by relentless turbulence since Thailand floated its currency on July 2, agreed with the United States to engage in a dialogue over the concept.

The IMF and some Western countries have expressed reservations that a regional fund may undercut the strict criteria attached to IMF economic assistance.

The World Bank chief said the Thai crisis indicated that the "system works and we were able to come together, both in terms of funding and financial assistance to the Thai government," which secured a \$17.2 billion rescue package.

He said the bank had received a strong endorsement of its fight against corruption, but stressed that the task of fighting bribery was primarily that of governments.

"The bank is not a government, it is a financial institution. Where there are governments that are interested in greater regulation, greater transparency, we are able to be very helpful. And where we are not we keep raising questions," he added.

## Greater state role in economy, but no Soviet yoke — Yeltsin

MOSCOW (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin has

signalled a shift away from pure market reforms, calling for a "new economic order" with a greater state role in the economy, but ruling out a return to Soviet-style planning.

He also moved to shore up the position of the young reformers in his cabinet, warning the country's powerful banks not to throw their weight around in the row over Russia's controversial privatisation programme.

"At the dawn of the reforms, the only force capable of overcoming the deep crisis was a free and powerful market," Mr. Yeltsin told the opening of the upper chamber of parliament, the Federation Council.

"To move towards solid

economic growth, economic freedom is not enough. We need a new economic order," he said, adding: "Everyone agrees that today we must increase the role of the state in the economy, and we are working in that direction."

"This is not a return to the era of the Gosplan and Gossnab (the Soviet-era state body for supplies), it is a return of the state to a thought-out economic strategy," he said.

Meanwhile, in Hong Kong, First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Chubais, a leading cabinet reformer, said Mr. Yeltsin's comments did "not mean that the state will increase its own property in the economy. That would be stupid."

Speaking on the sidelines of a meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, Mr. Chubais, who is also finance minister, said the government wanted to be "the only institution that can introduce the rules of the game."

Mr. Yeltsin also called Russia's powerful business lobby to order, saying: "Large corporations have appeared, concentrated in private hands. The state will not tolerate any attempts by businesses to put pressure on it."

"Businessmen must serve society and work for the benefit of Russian citizens," not the other way around, he said. Earlier this month Yeltsin summoned to the Kremlin six leading bankers who launched a series of bitter

attacks on the president's reformist cabinet, after losing out in a series of lucrative privatisation deals.

Mr. Chubais and First Deputy Prime Minister Boris Nemtsov in August accused the bankers, who financed Mr. Yeltsin's reelection campaign last year but lost out in a series of high-profile privatisations, of attempting to "determine the direction" of the country.

Mr. Yeltsin told the Federation Council the state treasury would be operational from 1998, with all federal accounts held there and not in the private sector "authorised banks."

Central Bank Chairman Sergei Dubinin in July charged that speculation by several commercial banks

handling federal budget funds had cheated the government of more than \$400 million.

Mr. Yeltsin warned that payment delays by authorised banks would in future be severely punished, and their contracts put out to tender.

He also proposed an

amnesty for people keeping large sums of money abroad illegally, proposing a 10-15 per cent fine if they repatriated the funds.

Officials put tax fraud in 1996 at \$23 billion — almost half the \$58 billion in revenues projected in the 1998 federal budget.

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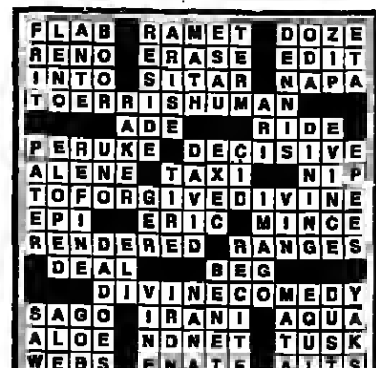
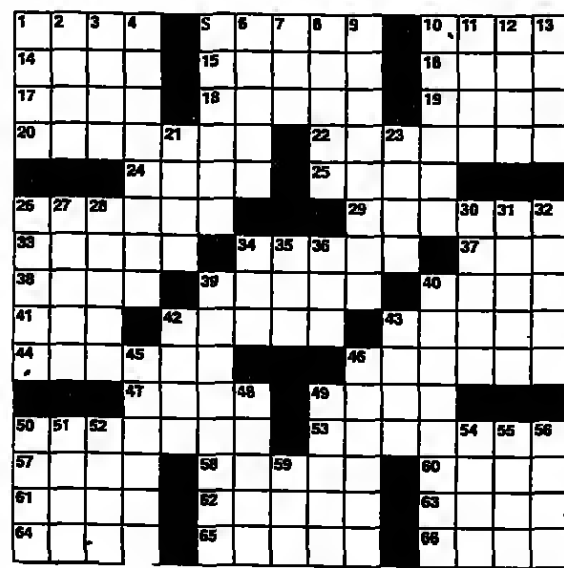
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  - Crunchy
  - Trail
  - Handsome men
  - Moment
  - "The Greatest"
  - Sports stadium
  - a gun
  - Roasting stick
  - Caviar base
  - Composer Jule
  - Actor McQueen
  - Printing goods
  - Conductor
  - Hose problems
  - Tolerate
  - Florida city
  - Range of hearing
  - Summer fruit
  - Additional
  - Put out of sight
  - Mt. letters
  - Driving test maneuver
  - Actor-singer, Bur
  - Printing direction
  - Bennett and Randall
  - moss



- DOWN**
- Boring routines
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- Harden against
- Let up on
- Opening word?
- Elliptical
- Take-out restaurant
- He wrote "My Way"
- Pills around
- Indiana city
- Murdane task
- Geshe's subject
- sandwich
- Hung open
- Mrs. Popeye?
- Saltpeter
- Bless
- Hotel
- Enemy
- Be conspicuous
- Spacecraft
- Astound
- Char
- Mush's landing spot
- Memorizes
- Take five
- Bowling alley
- Hub of activity
- Ancient theaters
- Screen or acid
- Attia, for one

### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff



### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1997

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

#### ARIES:

(March 21 to April 19) Let the other person run with the ball today. Actually, it's more likely tactful negotiations that are required. You're a person of action, but hold off. Wait until you get the go-ahead from a person with greater diplomatic skills and you'll be more successful.

#### TAURUS:

(April 20 to May 20) There's more than enough to keep you busy. If you're feeling overwhelmed, ask a distant mentor for advice. This person's too far away to do the job, but he or she can give you courage. The problem is that things keep changing. Start by helping the others make a decision.

#### GEMINI:

(May 21 to June 21) You're even luckier than you were yesterday, and that's saying a lot! You're also charming, creative and darned good looking. Try to keep them from fighting over your attention. Don't let them spend too much money on you, either. Be a calming influence.

#### MOON CHILDREN:

(June 22 to July 21) You may feel like staying in hiding most of the day. That may not be possible, but at least you can retreat into your sanctuary sanctuary tonight. There's too much confusion there, too. Let a loved one console you with talk of how nice it will be. Your sweetie will be right, you tomorrow.

#### LEO:

(July 22 to August 21) You're getting smarter and smarter. Don't let it go to your head. Instead, find more ways to have it go into your pocketbook. It's good to manifest more of your talents, of course. Do it in a way that's marketable and you'll also make your future more secure, while having fun.

#### VIRGO:

(August 22 to September 22) The danger isn't past. It's getting worse. Temptations are on every side. It's so hard for you to stick to the straight and narrow. Luckily, you have a wise friend to give you counsel and advice. This friend can be counted on for a swift kick in the right direction, too. Make contact.

#### LIBRA:

(September 23 to October 22) Again, you sparkle and shine. People want to be near you. They want you to help them solve their disputes. They want you to give them the benefit of your wisdom, so they can gain new insight. How to reach them all? Maybe you ought to start writing a book.

#### SCORPIO:

(October 23 to November 21) Continue to keep most of what you know to yourself. The temptation to tell all will be great. If you're in a private setting with people you trust, that's OK. You may learn more if you listen, however. You already know what you know. Find out what else is going on.

#### SAGITTARIUS:

(November 22 to December 21) You can get just about anything through your network of friends. Let them know what you want. You're also figuring out new ways to do it yourself. You can save lots of money by fixing stuff that's broken. That may be necessary later tonight.

#### CAPRICORN:

(December 22 to January 20) There's definitely a need to take action, but what to do first? Should you focus on your career or what's going on at home? The career will demand attention during the middle of the day. If you're not wowed in then, you could suffer a major setback.

#### AQUARIUS:

(January 21 to February 19) You're being enticed to try things you've always wanted to do. It's so fascinating! Well, reality will play a role in your decision-making. One thing requires more education and another requires you finish an old assignment first. These are double.

#### PISCES:

(February 20 to March 20) Don't feel like a victim. Actually, you have more control than you probably realise. Start by paying money you owe. That always makes you feel better. Then, get into conversation with the lender. This person is in the mood to compromise. Don't be wishy-washy. State your case boldly.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

### THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"Sometimes I feel like I ordered my husband from a TV infomercial at 3:00 in the morning."

### JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Yesterday's Jumbles: VIXEN ENSUE MARVEL ABACUS  
Answer: What he ended up with when he broke an ankle before the dance — A "LAME" EXCUSE

U.S. writes off last portion of Jordan's debt

The U.S. has written off the last portion of Jordan's debt, a move that is seen as a significant step towards resolving the country's financial crisis. The decision was announced by the U.S. Treasury Department, which said it had agreed with the Jordanian government to forgive the remaining \$100 million of the \$200 million debt. This move is expected to help Jordan stabilize its economy and attract foreign investment. The U.S. has been providing financial assistance to Jordan since the 1990s, and this latest decision is part of a broader effort to support the country's economic recovery.

### REUTERS The Business

Major Currencies & Cross Rates			
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP
US\$	1.0000	1.7800	0.6271
Yen	0.0079	1.0000	0.0079
DM	1.5000	1.0000	0.6309
Franc	0.6882	121.12	0.4757
Mark	0.0083	1.4572	0.5143
Scd	0.7229	1.2772	0.4400
Sw	0.0009	1.0228	0.3600
Sch	0.5042	88.74	0.2133
Port	0.1991	0.2077	0.1031

Middle East			
Currency	USD	JO	SAR
US\$	1.0000	0.7000	3.7500
JD	1.4124	1.0000	5.2873
SAR	0.2688	0.3838	1.0000
SD	2.65	1.8700	9.9400
SD	0.2747	0.1945	1.0204
SD	3.2938	2.3320	12.2534
SD	0.2723	0.1928	1.0211
SD	0.65	0.4606	2.4401
SD	0.2943	0.2084	1.1027

Energy			
Oil	Last	Previous	Change
WTI	19.37	19.41	-0.04
WTI	20.39	20.35	+0.04
WTI	19.37	19.41	-0.04
WTI	18.25	18.15	+0.10
WTI	151.00	195.00	-44.00

100 Cross Rates			
Currency	Buy	Sell	Change
US Dollar	0.708	0.710	-0.002
US Dollar	1.1416	1.1473	-0.0057
DE Mark	0.3992	0.4012	-0.0020
FR Franc	0.4843	0.4872	-0.0029
JP Yen	0.1129	0.1195	-0.0066
UK Pound	0.5562	0.5891	-0.0329
IT Lira	0.2546	0.3584	-0.1038

Main Equities			
Index	Value	Change	High/Low
New York	DOW JONES	7000	7000
New York	S&P 500	943	943
London	FT-SE 100	522	522
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	1780	1780
Paris	CAC 40	2500	2500
Frankfurt	DAX	4000	4000

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## Daily Business Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

### U.S. writes off last portion of Jordan's debt

**\*\* JAWAD ANANI**, on behalf of the government, and **Wesley Egan**, on behalf of the United States government, Thursday signed the third and last agreement which cancelled \$63.4 million of Jordanian debt to the U.S. The agreement was in line with the U.S. pledge in 1994 to cancel a total of \$700.4 million of the Kingdom's debt.

The first agreement, which was signed in September 1994, covered the cancellation of about \$220 million and the second signed in September 1994 wrote off \$417 million. Jordan was not asked to pay any amount to cover the last \$63.4 million portion, which was cancelled in the third agreement signed Thursday.

**Dr. Anani**, deputy prime minister for development affairs, described the write off of the last tranche of debt as "a proof of U.S. support for Jordan's role in achieving peace and maintaining stability in the region."

He appreciated the U.S. stand for its efforts to reschedule the Jordanian debt to the Paris Club.

**Dr. Anani** expected a U.S. decision over the coming few days concerning the U.S. aid to Jordan for the coming period (Al Ra'i).

### Exports to Iraq to exceed \$450m in '97

**\*\* "OUR EXPORTS TO Iraq this year will exceed \$450 million,"** Industry, Trade and Supply Minister **Hani Mulki** told businessmen and traders in Aqaba Thursday. He said that cooperation between the government and the private sector has brought good results in the balance of trade. The minister indicated that statistics for the first seven months of this year show an increase in exports by nine per cent (Al Ra'i).

### Exports, imports through Aqaba rise

**\*\* EXPORTS THROUGH** the port of Aqaba increased during the first seven months of this year as they totalled 4,215,634 tonnes compared to 3,977,752 tonnes during the first seven months of last year. Imports were also higher as they reached 6,751,411 tonnes compared to 6,626,819 tonnes. The activity of vessels and passengers through the port was higher in 1996 as they reached 27,350 vessels and 1,107,343 passengers. In 1990, the activity was reflected by 2,222 vessels and 860,385 passengers (Al Aswaq).

REUTERS

REUTERS

## The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates Prices as at 26/09/97 10:03											
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NGS	SRG		
US Dollar	-	1.7809	0.6219	1.4531	120.80	1.3834	1721.50	1.9633	5.9120		
DE Mark	0.5679	-	0.3528	0.8252	68.58	0.7855	977.29	1.1264	3.3581		
GB Sterling	1.8080	2.8320	-	2.3377	194.19	2.2245	2768.17	3.1891	9.5065		
CH Franc	0.6882	1.2112	0.4275	-	83.09	0.9518	1183.89	136.36	4.0680		
JP Yen	0.0083	1.4572	0.5143	1.2024	-	1.1447	14.23	164.07	4.8918		
CA Dollar	0.7229	1.2772	0.4466	1.0539	1.14	-	1247.54	1.4380	4.2890		
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0226	0.3809	0.8844	1426.33	0.8035	-	11.51	3.4329		
NL Guilder	0.5042	88.74	0.3133	73.27	60.87	0.8974	867.02	-	2.9799		
FR Franc	0.1891	0.2977	0.1051	24.5684	20.41	0.2339	33.52	33.5200	-		

Middle Eastern Currencies											
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAR	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP		
US Dollar	-	0.7080	3.7505	0.3770	3.6398	0.3036	3.6729	1537.00	3.3980		
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	-	5.2973	0.5325	5.1410	0.4288	5.1877	2170.90	4.7994		
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1888	-	0.1005	0.97	0.0809	0.98	409.81	0.9060		
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8780	9.9485	-	9.55	0.8053	9.74	4077.03	9.0135		
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0304	1.0304	-	0.0834	1.01	422.28	0.9336		
Kuwait Dinar	3.2938	2.3320	12.3534	1.2417	11.99	-	12.10	5062.58	0.9338		
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1928	1.0211	1.0128	0.9910	0.0827	-	418.47	0.9252		
Lebanese/1000	0.65	0.4606	2.4401	0.2453	2.3681	0.1975	2.3897	-	2.2108		
Egyptian	0.2943	0.2084	1.1037	0.1109	1.0712	0.0893	1.0809	452.32	-		

Energy											
Oil	Last	Previous									
Brent	18.37	19.41									
W. Texa	20.39	20.35									
Bonny	19.37	19.41									
Dubai	18.25	18.15									
UL Gas	191.00	195.00									

JOD Cross Rates											
Currency	Buy	Sell									
US Dollar	0.708	0.710									
GB Sterling	1.1418	1.1473									
DE Mark	0.3992	0.4012									
CH Franc	0.4848	0.4872									
FR Franc	0.1189	0.1195									
JP Yen	0.5862	0.5891									
NL Guilder	0.3546	0.3564									
IT Lira	0.4088	0.4108									

Main Equity Indices											
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Cls				
New York	DOW JONES	7908.92	60.91	0.78	7928.8	7848.8	7848				
New York	S&P 500	943.8	5.89	0.63	948.33	937.91	937.91				
London	FT-SE 100	5226.3	160.8	3.17	5244.3	5101.5	5085.5				
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	17994.71	-347.25	-1.98	18354	17933	18342				
Paris	CAC 40	2985.63	-19.75	-0.66	3004.3	2972	3005.4				
Frankfurt	DAX	4080.78	-67.8	-1.63	4083.7	4068.5	4148.6				

## AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN  
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179  
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (28/08/1997 - 30/09/1997)  
WEEKLY REPORT

DURING THE LAST 3 WEEKS											
NO.	COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPENING PRICE	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	AVERAGE PRICE	NO. OF TRADING DAYS
346,000	387,000 AMAN BANK	15.4	1.19	86	2660	1328805	333.00	337.00	335.00	333.007	5
2,100	1,890 JOR. NATIONAL BK.	-	0.00	164	98203	191291	1.99	2.00	1.92	1.93	5
3,150	3,000 BANK OF JORDAN	6.2	0.00	12	38253	114759	3.00	2.00	3.00	3.00	5
930	890 KED. EAST INV. BK.	60.4	0.00	11	23869	31831	91	83	91	83	5
2,180	3,230 INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	9.3	5.79	39	50150	65684	2.27	2.34	2.27	2.33	5
5,000	4,740 THE HOUSING BK.	14.8	3.83	23	533403	3135455	5.00	5.00	4.95	4.84	5
3,330	3,120 JOR. KUNAYT BANK	11.1	0.00	19	2844	12028	3.18	3.25	3.10	3.15	5
780	780 JOR. GULF BANK	4.9	9.23	26	60750	45335	7.76	7.76	7.76	7.76	5
4,000	3,850 JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.3	3.19	12	63106	236658	3.86	3.86	3.76	3.74	5
1,250	1,200 UNION BK. SAV. INV.	168.2	0.00	2	3100	1200	1.20	1.30	1.20	1.20	5
3,430	2,330 JOR. INV. FUND BANK	33.3	0.00	17	5863	30537	2.43	3.62	3.45	3.62	5
980	890 BETH. AL-HAL (BETHA)	6	16.30	10	1572	1458	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	5
4,450	4,240 AMAN BANKING CO.	20.5	0.00	1	1000	4250	4.24	4.25	4.25	4.25	5

BANKS											
NO.	COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPENING PRICE	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	AVERAGE PRICE	NO. OF TRADING DAYS
1,200	1,200 AMMAN SEAS INSUR.	8.5	0.00	3	500	640	1.20	1.30	1.35	1.50	5
1,850	1,740 JOR. PRINCE INSUR.	5.0	0.52	8	4398	7738	1.74	1.80	1.74	1.75	5
2,210	3,210 BETH. LAND INSUR.	5.4	0.00	2	673	1447	2.21	2.15	2.15	2.15	5

ISSUANCE											
NO.	COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPENING PRICE	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	AVERAGE PRICE	NO. OF TRADING DAYS
1,850	1,550 JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	8.3	5.18	54	392557	731773	1.83	1.93	1.93	1.93	5
3,830	3,830 JOR. ELECTRICITY	20.4	3.25	8	558	2103	2.82	3.43	2.85	3.43	5
3,000	2,850 KHEIR MINERAL	25.4	9.11	11	161110	499272	3.00	3.10	2.99	3.05	5
7,500	7,000 VACIL. OWNERS' FID.	7.7	4.99	2	10179	73755	7.25	7.25	7.01	7.01	5
4,750	4,500 AMAN INTL. HOTELS	13.1	4.99	5	2250	8857	4.50	4.50	4.35	4.35	5
2,820	2,750 SHIPPING LINES	19.7	4.81	3	500	1362	3.50	3.75	3.70	3.70	5
1,500	1,370 BETH. PORTFOLIO	0.00	0.00	97	78450	87563	1.38	1.38	1.31	1.33	5
950	880 BETH. ESTATE INV.	25.9	6.45	11	14575	15857	92	97	80	83	5
540	520 JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	27.2	0.00	3	1300	676	54	53	51	53	5
7,000	5,700 ALBA 'X'	12.8	6.83	6	221	1584	7.00	7.32	7.15	7.31	5
1,250	1,250 KED. EAST HOTELS	18.7	0.00	8	24600	30358	1.22	1.22	1.23	1.23	5
3,430	3,230 AMAN INTL. INV. FUND	8.3	0.00	60	371500	849940	3.25	3.53	3.35	3.53	5
1,070	900 BETH. EDUCATION	-	0.00	12	7500	7521	1.01	1.05	1.00	1.00	5
1,850	1,730 UNITED CO.	8.5	5.25	38	6100	10685	1.75	1.77	1.74	1.75	5
750	710 UNION LAND DEV.	-	0.00	5	1525	1067	71	71	70	70	5

SERVICES		SECTORS		699	970353	2439825	INDEX	NUMBERS	110.90	CHANGE +- 8.387	
3.900	3.830 JOR.-CHEMIST FACT.	25.9	3.96	50	344556	938101	3.85	2.90	3.82	3.84	5
3.890	3.700 JOR.-PHOSPHATE MINES	10.3	3.70	9	1001	3695	3.75	3.70	3.70	3.70	5
6.150	5.950 AMAN POTASH	14.4	3.23	27	161974	981390	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5
10.900	10.100 JOR.-PETROCHEMIST	10.6	8.15	104	37250	505656	10.89	11.00	10.70	10.90	5
4.500	4.500 JORDAN TANNING	9.8	5.26	2	330	1304	4.60	4.70	4.70	4.70	5
1.710	1.630 INDUSTRIAL COMM. AG.	-	0.00	10	1084	1815	1.55	1.57	1.55	1.65	5
5.800	5.000 JOR.-WORSTED MILLS	11.0	3.83	5	5820	45710	5.80	5.85	5.84	5.85	5
4.570	4.130 AMAN FRASH. MFG.	12.5	4.36	151	45363	208655	4.66	4.70	4.56	4.59	5
2.550	2.450 JORDAN DAIRY	8.9	9.22	2	3150	818	3.65	3.65	3.65	2.55	5
1.270	1.270 JOR.-PIPES MANUF.	15.7	6.30	4	3680	4586	1.27	1.37	1.37	1.37	5
1.100	1.100 RAFA INDUSTRIES	-	0.00	1	150	152	1.10	1.08	1.08	1.03	5
5.850	5.500 DAR ALAMIA DV. INV.	14.3	4.37	33	15826	82399	5.85	5.88	5.73	5.85	5
2.500	3.240 AMAN ALUM. IND.	5.9	10.00	17	9130	22784	2.50	2.51	2.47	2.50	5
4.590	4.450 LIVERPOOL & POLYURE	12.6	0.00	518	58800	344582	4.8	5.7	4.8	5.05	5
1.100	1.020 AMAN PAPER CORP. TRD.	30.6	0.00	22	6380	6342	1.02	1.01	1.00	1.03	5
830	800 NATIONAL STEEL IND.	-	0.00	1	100	80	80	80	80	80	5
5.850	5.500 NATIONAL STEEL IND.	-	0.00	85	78450	43053	5.53	5.57	5.52	5.57	5
5.580	5.000 NATIONAL STEEL IND.	-	0.00	3550	8056	10635	5.54	5.58	5.54	5.58	5
4.770	4.770 JOR.-CHEM. IND.	19.4	4.18	1	1000	4770	4.77	5.77	4.77	4.77	5
6.600	6.300 JOR.-ROCKWELL IND.	0.00	0.00	5	3600	1678	6.33	6.55	6.4	6.5	5
1.570	1.510 UNIV.-CHEM. IND.	13.3	5.75	2	400	592	1.53	1.48	1.48	1.48	5
2.360	3.100 MAZ.-CARLIS WIRE, MPAC	35.9	0.00	1	100	230	2.25	3.30	2.30	2.30	5
5.300	4.10 JOR.-SULPHUR-CHM.	-	0.00	10	8250	5071	5.02	5.52	5.51	5.43	5
1.380	1.310 AMAN FRASH. CHM.	17.0	5.36	45	15267	39052	1.34	1.34	1.33	1.33	5
1.300	2.240 UNIV.-MOG. IND.	475.7	121	22	15050	18882	1.38	1.27	1.24	1.25	5
1.940	900 JOR.-INDS.-RESOURCES	12.1	11.11	35	11424	10334	1.93	81	90	90	5
1.600	1.510 KAT.-CHLORINE	14.8	4.43	58	160544	255061	1.57	1.60	1.58	1.58	5
1.060	920 JOR.-NEW CARBLE CO.	25.4	0.00	32	20391	16827	0.84	0.84	0.83	0.84	5
1.140	1.020 DORACO	20.0	0.00	32	16882	19182	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	5
1.300	1.320 UNIV.-CH. & VEG.	90.2	0.00	25	58400	67114	1.16	1.30	1.10	1.10	5



## Sonics ship Kemp to Cavs as part of three-way deal

SEATTLE (AFP) — Disgraced superstar forward Shawn Kemp got his wish Thursday when the SuperSonics traded him to the Cleveland Cavaliers as part of a three-way deal involving Milwaukee.

Kemp goes to the Cavaliers, who also acquired veteran point guard Sherman Douglas from the Bucks. Milwaukee obtained guard Terrell Brandon, forward Tyrone Hill and a conditional first-round draft pick from Cleveland and sent forward Vin Baker to the Sonics to complete the deal.

Kemp's days in Seattle appeared numbered in early June, when he announced he would never play for the Sonics again.

The 27-year-old Kemp, who made \$3.3 million this season, was upset with his salary situation all year. He sat out three weeks before reporting to training camp and he missed or was late for a handful of practices and team trips, despite the assurances of Sonics owner Barry Ackerley that his contract would be reworked as soon as possible.

On March 30, Kemp was taken out of the starting lineup for four games for missing a team flight and practice the previous day. He was also benched and fined an undisclosed amount by coach George Karl for not informing the team he would miss a practice on April 4.

Before missing the practice, Kemp reportedly met with his teammates and said his behavior was affected by personal matters.

Karl, who has feuded with players in the past, said Kemp had to improve his level of professionalism.

Kemp averaged 18.7 points and 10 rebounds in 81 games for Seattle, which won the Pacific Division (57-25), but was eliminated in seven games by Houston in the conference semis.

He was the third-highest paid player on the Sonics but apparently was upset that center Jim McIlvaine, who averaged 3.8 points and four rebounds per game, made \$3 million in the first year of a seven-year, \$33 million free-agent deal signed before the season.

Kemp completed the second year of a seven-year extension he signed in 1993 which calls for a \$14.6 million balloon payment in the 2002-03 season. However, under the rules of the NBA's collective bargaining agreement, contracts cannot be renegotiated until the third year is complete.

Unlike Seattle, the Cavs have the cap room to meet



Shawn Kemp

Kemp's salary demands.

A first-round pick of the Sonics in 1989 despite never playing at the collegiate level, Kemp raised his averages for points and rebounds in each of his first seven seasons. But he has been criticized for displaying an immature attitude.

In 1995-96, he helped lead Seattle to its first appearance in the NBA Finals in 17 years and averaged 23.3 points and 10 rebounds.

as the Sonics extended the Chicago Bulls to six games.

"I think Shawn has matured quite a bit in the last few years," said Cleveland president Wayne Embry. "We gave up two very good players to acquire a player of this stature. We're very excited about it."

"In Shawn, we get a guy that not only gets on the glass and can rebound, but he's a tremendous finisher. He's also a tremendous

shot-blocker, which gives us a new dimension. He's a player that we've had our eyes on, and he's still relatively young."

The 27-year-old Brandon is a two-time All-Star who led the Cavs in scoring last season at 19.5 points per game. He also averaged 6.3 assists and just under 4.0 rebounds while shooting 43.8 per cent from the field and 37.4 per cent from three-point range.

Brandon's scoring average has increased in each of the last four seasons and his 490 assists in 1996-97 were a career high.

Hill was Cleveland's leading rebounder last season at 9.9 per game. He also averaged 12.9 points in 74 games and was second in the leading in shooting percentage at 60 per cent.

In Baker, the Sonics get a solid return for Kemp. The power forward has been an All-Star each of the last three seasons. The eighth

overall pick in the 1993 draft, Baker was second on the Bucks in scoring with 21.0 points per game while leading the team in rebounding at 10.3 per cent.

Baker was one of only four players in the NBA to average at least 20 points and 10 rebounds. The others were Patrick Ewing of the New York Knicks, Chris Webber of the Washington Wizards and Shaquille O'Neal of the Los Angeles Lakers.

"I think in a lot of ways, our mental health got better today," said Karl. "I think there are very few players in basketball that can go 20 and 10, and Shawn Kemp is one of those players."

"But I also believe Vin Baker is one of those players."

Douglas 31 joins his fourth team. In 79 games with the Bucks last season, he averaged 9.7 points and 5.4 assists.

## Bordeaux down Marseille 2-0

PARIS (AFP) — Bordeaux scored an impressive 2-0 victory over Marseille in a French League match Thursday night, demonstrating how badly the losers need the strike-power of their newly-signed Italian international Fabrizio Ravanelli.

Marseille signed Ravanelli from English club Middlesbrough earlier in the day and he is expected to make his debut at home to Toulouse next week.

Sharp finishing was the key to Bordeaux's victory with Lilian Laslandes scoring his fifth goal of the championship in the 10th minute, collecting a clever through-ball from Johan Micoud, beating the offside trap and hammering the ball into the roof of the net.

It was the fifth league goal of the season for Laslandes, but he limped off the pitch just a minute later.

Marseille hit the post through Xavier Gravelaine and squandered several other chances before Bordeaux made it 2-0 with a decisive strike through veteran forward Jean-Pierre Papin after 64 minutes.

The victory in front of a crowd of 20,800 saw Bordeaux move into third spot behind Metz and Paris St Germain and left mid-table Marseille still looking for the away league win that eluded them throughout last year and so far this year.

Lens moved up the table to fourth ahead of Friday's matches with a 3-1 win away to Lyon.

Frederic Dehu put Lens following a corner in the 19th minute and Yohan Lachor, with a clever header, and Stephane Ziari, with a fierce drive, then put the result beyond doubt with goals either side of halftime.

Alain Cavaglia reduced the deficit, but injury-ravaged Lyon failed to make any further breakthroughs despite having several good chances, much to the disappointment of their 17,000 home crowd.

The remaining seven ninth-round matches will all be played on Friday night.

## African Nations Cup Burkina Faso to face Cameroon in opener

OUAGADOUGOU (AFP) — Host nation Burkina Faso will face Cameroon in the tournament opener of the 1998 African Nations Cup following Thursday night's draw.

Burkina Faso and Cameroon were drawn with Algeria and Guinea in Group A of the 16-nation tournament, which will be played from February 7-28 in the landlocked West African country.

Defending champions South Africa were drawn in Group C along with Angola, the Ivory Coast and Namibia and will open against Angola.

Group B comprises four-time winners Ghana, Tunisia, Togo and DR Congo, while Group D will be contested by Zambia, Morocco, Egypt and Mozambique.

Nigeria are notable absentees, having been barred from the preliminary rounds after refusing to defend the title last year

because of political differences with South Africa.

The winners and runners-up in each will advance to the knockout phase, tournament first staged 40 years ago in Khartoum.

Ouagadougou hosts two groups, A and B, while South Africa will play three first-round matches in B. Dioulassa, a town 320km south-west of capital.

The draw:

Group A: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Algeria, Guinea

Group B: Ghana, Tunisia, Togo, RD Congo

Group C: South Africa, Angola, Ivory Coast, Namibia

Group D: Zambia, Morocco, Egypt, Mozambique.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Philippoussis wins in Toulouse

TOULOUSE (AFP) — Australian Mark Philippoussis struggled to a three-set win over Frenchman Lionel Roux on Thursday night to advance to the last eight of the Toulouse ATP Tour tournament. Philippoussis, the defending champion and third seed, beat Roux 6-3, 6-7 (5/7), 6-3 in 1hr 44mins and has a clear path to the final after two other seeds tumbled out. German power-server Alex Radulescu and Frenchman Arnaud Clement both scored surprise victories over seeded players in the second round. Radulescu, ranked 77th in the world, downed sixth-seeded Frenchman Fabrice Santoro 6-2, 6-3 while Clement, ranked 172nd, ousted fifth-seeded Swede Magnus Larsson 7-6 (11/9), 3-6, 6-4. Philippoussis will face Clement in the quarter-finals.

### Nigerian coach sacked

LAGOS (AFP) — Nigerian national team coach Philippe Troussier, who led his team in qualifying for the 1998 World Cup, was sacked by the national federation on Thursday for failing to agree to contractual conditions. Troussier had led the Super Eagles since March 1 but the federation ended his reign after he refused to agree to working conditions spelled out in a letter he was sent by the federation late last month. Although these conditions were not made clear, it appears one of his objections was having to name a team to the federation technical committee 24 hours before each match. The Nigerian federation nonetheless praised Troussier for his contribution. A written statement said: "We thank Philippe Troussier for the successful completion of the qualifying series". It added that, complying with a clause in his contract, he would be paid a bonus of \$30,000 for taking the Super Eagles to the World Cup finals. Nigeria are to immediately advertise for a replacement.

### Blomqvist destined for Parma

MILAN (AFP) — Swedish international Jesper Blomqvist is set to join Parma from fellow Serie A club AC Milan. Midfielder Blomqvist has not been able to win a regular starting spot at the strong Milan club and will cost Parma around \$6 million, the Milan club announced Thursday night.

### Man United face Leeds

LONDON (AFP) — Manchester United will take a step closer to a full-strength line-up at Leeds on Saturday with Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Ryan Giggs battling for a starting place. Solskjaer came on for the last 20 minutes of Wednesday's game against Chelsea and now the Norwegian is hoping that manager Alex Ferguson will give him his first start of the season. Giggs was another late substitute on Wednesday. Ferguson had wanted to play him from the start but the Welshman was feeling his hamstring slightly so he was not risked.

## Liverpool slam McAteer move talk

LONDON (AFP) — Liverpool manager Roy Evans insisted on Friday that Irish defender Jason McAteer was not for sale.

The Liverpool star has been linked all season with a move away from Anfield following the loss of his first team place to Rob Jones.

Evans had previously hit out at speculation when McAteer was linked with moves to Newcastle, Blackburn and Spurs.

Now he has again angrily denied that the full back is on his way out.

"I am sick of saying it — McAteer is not for sale and is not going anywhere," Evans said.

"I have not had contact with any club, and that includes Spurs, and I'm not inviting any contact."

"This keeps coming up and I'm fed up with repeating myself. I have not even said that he can go when we get a replacement which people seem to think I have said. That is not true."

"For the past couple of years Jason has barely missed a game for us. He is a key member of the squad, and I won't be selling him. "You need big squads in the Premiership if you want to maintain a challenge for honours, and that is what we have got."

McAteer and Paul Ince were back in the reckoning for Liverpool's trip to West Ham on Saturday.

Both missed the midweek 3-0 victory over Aston Villa through injury.

## To P, or not to P? The question for Beijing-Paris rallyists

NEW DELHI (AFP) — "To P, Or Not to P?" that was the question Friday morning as vintage cars rolled out of New Delhi continuing on their 16,000-kilometre (9,920-mile) journey between Beijing and Paris.

Drivers in the rally, being held for the first time for 90 years, were confident of reaching P, or Paris ... all apart from Adam "Tubby" Hartley, whose 1920s Bentley tourer sported the question on its doors.

More than 80 drivers from 22 countries in classic and vintage cars boasting names such as Allard, Bentley, Citroen, Deuvel, Ford, Mercedes Benz, Morris, MG, Volkswagen and Rolls Royce expect to reach Paris on October 18.

The 45-day journey across half the world

will take them across 11 countries. Most drivers said the road was over.

Austrian Kurt Diehl said his 1950 Rolls Royce had behaved "like a dream" over inhospitable terrain, including a particularly difficult stretch between Tibet and the Nepalese border.

"It was a road you could just about ride a horse on. There was water, stones, pigs, camel-carts, sheep and people. We took four and a half hours to do about 17 kilometres (10 miles)."

Diehl said his car had been so reliable he had been embarrassed.

"Every day people ask me 'did you have a problem?' The only problem up till now has been shining the windows every day."

Commander K.C. Jessen from Denmark

said it would be smooth sailing for him and his 1924 Bentley tourer from New Delhi onwards.

"This has been as smooth as Mount Everest is high," he said.

"Paris? Paris is nearer every minute. Things are getting better and better."

Jessen is taking no chances. For luck, he is wearing a pair of goggles from World War II ("the pilot was a friend. He flew a Spitfire and his plane was untouched") and carrying a "lucky" cricket in a little wicker box.

Briton John Sturtard says his custom-built, shocking pink 1934 Rolls was "embarrassingly good at 63."

"She's a darling. I hope I will be as good at that age," he said.

Of the unconventional colour (pink with silver flecks), he said: "I am supported by the Financial Times, so the pink. The silver is to make her sparkle. And she has sparkled all the way."

Burt Richmond from Colorado said "everything that could go wrong went wrong" with his 1953 Citroen CV2 but added that the car's reputation as a workhorse was justified.

"It's very spartan and primitive but solid... you can repair it with wire and strings, literally."

Richmond said the trip had been an education.

"I broke my left suspension in rural China. I asked a farmer to call a man who can make fire for metal. I now know the

Chinese word for welding — it is hanji."

Asked to specify modifications, he said: "I only took out the air-conditioning. Just kidding... this car ain't got no air conditioning."

Dutchman Johannes van der Laan, the first to enter Delhi, in a 1958 Citroen CV2, showed off a secret which he said would surely take him to Paris — a medallion of Saint Christopher, the patron of — adventurers.

Richmond said his secret lay elsewhere — a "religious experience" every night.

"Every night, I sit down and say please car, don't fall apart. It works like magic."

CINEMA	TEL: 634144		CINEMA	TEL: 634144		CINEMA	TEL: 699238		CINEMA	TEL: 677420		CINEMA	TEL: 079 33430		CINEMA	TEL: 079 33430		Risham Yanes Theatre	TEL: 625155	
	PHILADELPHIA "1"	PHILADELPHIA "2"		PHILADELPHIA "2"	PLAZA		CONCORD "1"	CONCORD "2"		GALLERIA 1	GALLERIA 2		GALLERIA 1	GALLERIA 2		GALLERIA 1	GALLERIA 2		GALLERIA 1	GALLERIA 2
TODAY AT	Bruce Willis...in <b>THE FIFTH ELEMENT</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Robin Williams & Gene Hackman...in <b>THE BIRDCAGE</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30					Jack Nicholson, Glenn Close, Danny DeVito & Pierce Brosnan...in <b>MARS ATTACKS</b> (12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30)			John Travolta & Nicolas Cage...in <b>FACE OFF</b> Shows: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:45			ABDOUN Julia Roberts...in <b>MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING</b> Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30						Watch out for the new play. <b>THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SERVICE OF PEOPLE</b> Starring Hisham Yanes and Amal Dabbas	



...pitcher Pedro Martinez...  
...in the fourth inning...  
...candidate for the NY Yankees...  
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## MAJOR LEAGUE RESULTS

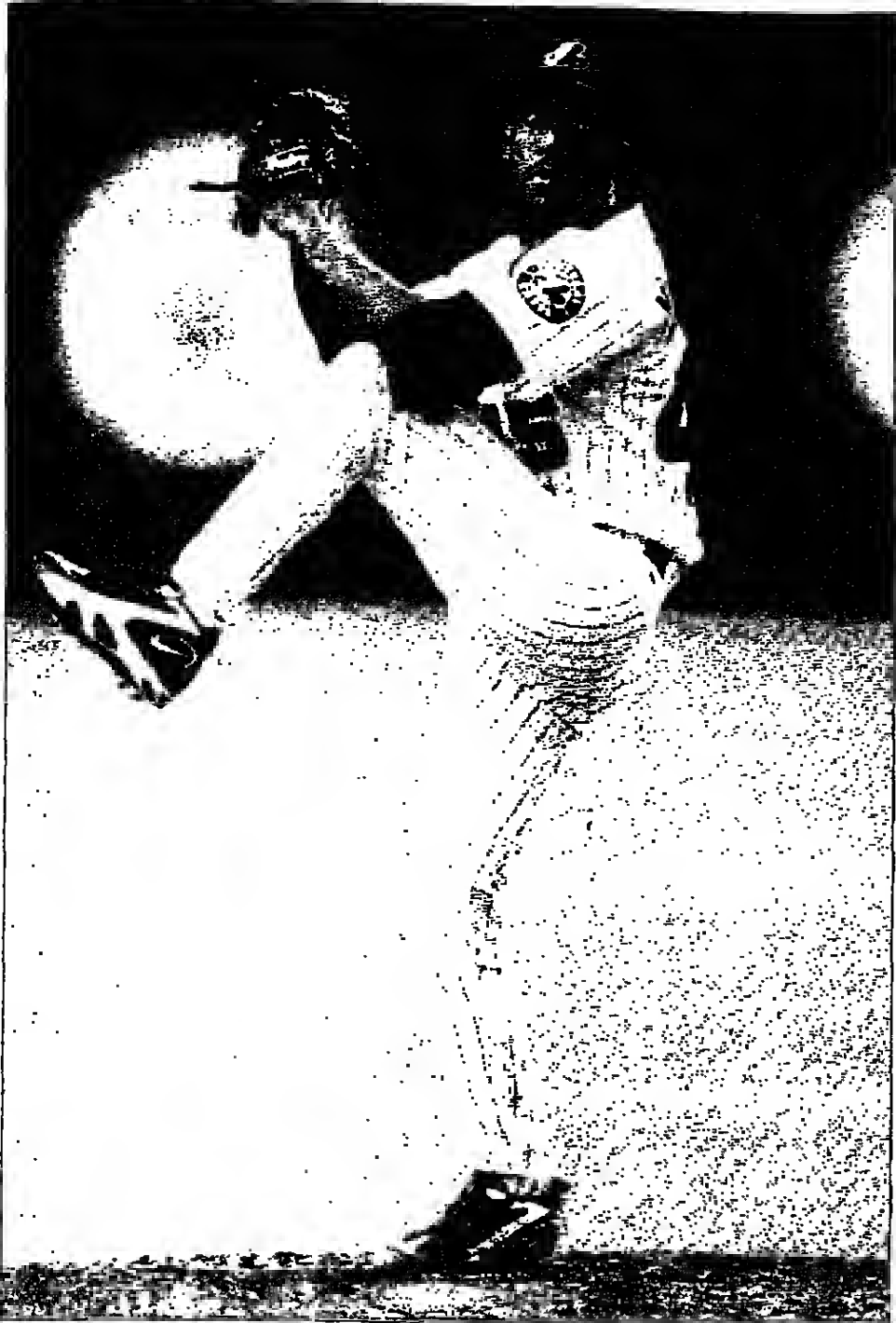
National League		American League	
Cardinals	Philadelphia	Yankees	Detroit
Pirates	Florida	Rangers	Milwaukee
Braves	Chicago Cubs	Red Sox	Cleveland
Reds	St. Louis	Twins	Baltimore
Padres	Colorado	Angels	Minnesota
		Mariners	Seattle

## GOREN BRIDGE

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
1. What is the name of the card game played with 52 cards?	Bridge
2. What is the name of the card game played with 32 cards?	Whist
3. What is the name of the card game played with 24 cards?	Hearts
4. What is the name of the card game played with 16 cards?	Spades
5. What is the name of the card game played with 8 cards?	Clubs
6. What is the name of the card game played with 4 cards?	Diamonds
7. What is the name of the card game played with 2 cards?	Trumps
8. What is the name of the card game played with 1 card?	Jackpot
9. What is the name of the card game played with 0 cards?	Nothing
10. What is the name of the card game played with -1 cards?	Loss





Montreal Expos' pitcher Pedro Martinez delivers a pitch to the Florida Marlins during action at Olympic Stadium in Montreal, September 25. Martinez struck out Marlins' Kurt Abbott in the fourth inning for his 300th strike out of the year. Martinez, a leading candidate for the NL CY Young, came into tonight's game with a 17-8 record, and leading the majors with an 1.92 ERA (Reuters photo)

## Astros clinch first division title in 11 years

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Mike Hampton was not as flawless as Mike Scott, but he pitched the Houston Astros to their first division title in 11 years Thursday as they captured the National League Central crown.

Hampton tossed his seventh complete game — all since July 1 — as the Astros wrapped up the division championship with a 9-1 rout of the Chicago

Cubs. The clincher came 11 years to the day after Scott pitched a no-hitter against the San Francisco Giants to secure the 1986 NL West flag.

Shortstop Ricky Gutierrez ranged to his right to snare Sammy Sosa's grounder and just nipped him at first base for the game's final out, setting off a celebration as Jeff Bagwell embraced longtime teammate Craig Biggio.

"Santa Claus came for me today," Biggio said. "This is a tremendous feeling. We're going to go and have some fun tonight."

"It is everything I thought it would be," Bagwell added. "We've been battling with an up-and-down season, but we finally got what we've all started out for. We'll be ready for the challenge."

Houston finally eliminated the pesky Pittsburgh Pirates to earn a Division Series matchup with the NL East champion Atlanta.

The Astros' victory left only one unclaimed postseason berth.

The Los Angeles Dodgers oughtened things up in the NL West Thursday by routing former teammate Pedro Astacio and the Colorado Rockies 9-5.

Todd Zeile homered twice, Darren Lewis had a three-run shot and Eric Karros added a two-run blast for the Dodgers, who moved within two games of first-place San Francisco and kept the Giants' magic number for clinching the division at two.

Los Angeles concludes the season with three more games in Colorado, while the Giants host a three-game series with San Diego.

The Dodgers, who had lost six of their previous seven games, were boosted by the presence of Mike Piazza. The All-Star catcher bruised his left wrist in Wednesday's loss to San Diego but went 3-for-5 with an RBI.

Piazza broke the single-season major-league record for hits by a catcher, hoisting his total to 195 to break the mark shared by Joe Torre and Ted Simmons.

If the Giants and Los Angeles finish tied, they would meet in a one-game playoff on Monday in San Francisco.

The American League postseason matchups are set with the Eastern Division champion Baltimore Orioles battling the Seattle Mariners, who won the Western Division. The other series pits the wild-card New York Yankees, the reigning World Series champions, against the AL Central champion Cleveland Indians.

## Korda joins Rafter in semis

MUNICH (AFP) — Patrick Rafter continued on his phenomenal earning pace Thursday with a win that took him into the semi-finals of the \$6 million Grand Slam Cup.

Rafter, still living a technicolour dream after winning the U.S. Open title earlier this month, downed seventh-seed Marcelo Rios of Chile 6-1, 7-6 (7/0) at the Olympiahalle at the International Tennis Federation event which pays out generously to its 16 elite invitees.

The Australian was joined in the final four by Petr Korda of the Czech Republic.

Korda, who took the title four years ago, levelled his career series with Wimbledon finalist Cedric Pioline of France through a 7-5, 6-3 victory in their quarter-final.

The semifinal line-ups were to be finalised late Friday.

Brish No.1 Greg Rusedski will be bidding strongly for a place when he plays Yevgeny Kafelnikov, while world No.1 Pete Sampras faces Swede Jonas Bjorkman, the man who put out title holder Boris Becker in the opening round.

Rafter's paydays seem to know no limits as his winning streak continues.

The smiling 24-year-old Australian, now ranked No.3 in the world, claimed \$650,000 for taking the U.S. title in New York just over a fortnight ago.

He has now piled on a \$250,000 bonus here (as a Grand Slam champion) and is also guaranteed a minimum of \$425,000 as a semi-finalist.

The figures for less than a month's work total \$1.3 million.

"I don't know what I'm going to do with it. I don't have a place to spend it on. I don't need a car," said Rafter, who is one of nine children. "I guess my family will want it, I'd better give it to them."

With his Bermuda island base, the Aussie said that buying a Ferrari or two like friend and doubles partner Mark Philippoussis is out of the question.

"The cars rust after four years due to the salt water and the speed limit is 35 kph. I have a moped that I rent when I go there. I have a hall on that, more fun than what I would in a really nice car."

Rafter joked: "When I go to Australia, I'll have to drive Mark's cars."

The Australian's main worry now is to keep himself motivated. He is reluctant to admit it — but world No.1 may not be all that far away.

"I don't have any more goals at the moment. It's so amazing what has happened. I'm going to have to find a goal. I need something to strive for. I feel that everything I've ever dreamed of as a kid has come true right now," he said.

"For me to be No.1 at this stage is unrealistic."

Rafter will play in Europe for the next two months in hopes of qualifying for the eight-man ATP Tour Championships in Hannover, Germany, in November.

## World Cup qualifiers South Korea prepared for Japanese secret weapon

TOKYO (AFP) — South Korea said Friday they were ready for anything the Japanese could throw at them in their crucial World Cup qualifier here, including the home side's secret weapon, Brazilian-born Wagner.

South Korean coach Cha Bum-Kun said his team had closely studied Wagner, who was naturalised last week, through video replays and other data. "We have analysed techniques of Japanese players," he said.

The Brazilian has been selected to take free-kicks and comes to the side with a fearsome reputation as dead-ball kicker with either foot, although the Hiratsuka Bellmare forward has shown his skill only once in the J-League — when he scored from a 25-metre free-kick in April.

"The match will be decided by the condition and mental power of our players. They are in good condition," Cha told a news conference after a closed workout at a gymnasium in Urayasu outside Tokyo.

Choi Yongsoo, who has scored four goals to help South Korea lead Asia's Group B with two straight wins, shrugged off fears the Japanese might gang up on him.

"I'm confident. I will definitely score a goal," said the 24-

year-old Sangmoo forward.

Japan, along with the United Arab Emirates, trail South Korea as they chase their first-ever World Cup berth in France next year.

South Korea have been to five straight World Cups while Japan need to reach France '98 to avoid being the first nation to host the premier football event without having ever been to one.

The International Football Federation (FIFA) last year made South Korea and Japan the co-hosts of the 2002 World Cup finals after their rival bids threatened to strain international relations.

Wagner was idle on Friday as Japan worked out in Iwata, some 200 kilometres southwest of Tokyo. He needed to travel to Tokyo to apply for a passport from his adopted country.

Japanese captain Masami Ihara said: "Our condition will be 100 per cent perfect on Sunday."

"We are all keyed up as it will be a home game and our opponents are South Korea," he said. "We will definitely win."

## Inter ready to strike

PARIS (AFP) — Inter Milan are ready to extend their advantage at the top of the Serie A on Saturday when they will be hoping to take what should be three easy points from newly-promoted Lecce.

Both sides have made a highly-consistent start to the league season — with Inter winning all three matches and Lecce losing all three.

Inter will also be at full strength after their coach Gigi Simoni rested Ronaldo and several other key players for their midweek Italian Cup tie against second division Foggia.

The second-string side played badly and squeaked home 3-2 with two goals in the last 10 minutes. But it still meant that Inter have won all six competitive matches they have played this season.

Champions Juventus have yet to concede a goal this season, but their defence is bound to be tested by a Sampdoria side still patiently waiting for Jurgen Klinsmann to find the target.

Both clubs have seven points, and neither side is expecting an easy time in Genoa on Saturday.

Juveons have scored 13 goals in their last three matches (Champions League, Serie A and Italian Cup), but Sampdoria's confidence has risen after overturning an Italian Cup deficit in midweek.

Sampdoria lost the away leg to Graeme Souness' Torino three weeks ago and were 1-0 down in Genoa before reserve striker Sandro Tovalieri, hoping to win a first-team place, scored a hat-trick on Wednesday night.

In Spain, Valencia hope to include Brazilian striker Romario for their top-of-the-bill clash at home to Real Madrid on Saturday as they look to get off the mark after their opening three defeats.

Only two goals scored and seven conceded does not make for impressive reading. However new coach Claudio Ranieri, who took over following the sacking of Jorge Valdano, now has Romario almost back to full fitness after a month recovering from a left hamstring pull.

The match is a major test for Valencia who will be trying to pull themselves back into form following the sacking of Valdano.

Madrid coach Jupp Heynckes will be hoping his Brazilian pairing of Roberto Carlos and Ze Roberto can neutralise Romario and the skilful Argentinian Ariel Ortega.

Unbeaten leaders Barcelona travel to Sporting Gijon still feeling the friction between Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov and coach Louis Van Gaal — Stoichkov has been complaining about Van Gaal's coaching style. And Barca are still without the services of playmakers Guardiola and Giovanni.

A fully-fit Atletico Madrid host Celta Vigo, who are in a surprise second spot behind Barcelona. Vigo will provide a test for Brazilian Juninho and his Atletico teammates before their tough UEFA Cup trip to English club Leicester.

Auxerre visit French league leaders Metz at the weekend and will attempt to end a run of their poor form.

The 1995/96 league and cup double winners, coached by Guy Roux — who has been at the club 36 years — have lost five times in eight matches leaving them in mid-table obscurity.

Admittedly the club has seen an exodus of their top players, including Taribo West to Inter Milan, Algerian Moussa Saib to Valencia and Lilian Laslandes to Bordeaux — a trend Roux has become used to over the years.

Second-placed Paris Saint Germain must do without suspended central defender Alain Roche and opponents Montpellier leave out Patrick Sauter, who has an Achilles tendon problem.

Champions Monaco are aiming to move into the top five following their match at home to Strasbourg.

Bundesliga leaders Kaiserslautern, who beat Saarbrücken in the second round of the German Cup in midweek, are at home to 12th-placed Werder Bremen.

Bayern Munich, in second spot, meet UEFA Cup champions Schalke 04, who lost to amateur side Eintracht Trier in the Cup on Tuesday.

East German side Hansa Rostock, who finished low down last season but are now in third place, travel to a Leverkusen side in trouble following four defeats in their seven matches so far.

European Cup champions Dortmund, currently in seventh place, have a chance to move up the table with their Saturday fixture against TSV Munich 1860.



Richard Noble, (rear left), joins other Thrust SSC crew members as they congratulate Andy Green on his land speed record on Nevada's Black Rock Desert. The British SuperSonic Car, owned by Noble, holder of the previous record, shattered the world land speed record, racing across the desert at 1,142 kph. Green broke the 14-year-old land speed record by an astonishing 130 kph, one of the largest leaps in the almost 100-year history of world land speed record attempts (Reuters photo)

## Astonishing Bucs try to match best start

TAMPA (AFP) — Surprising Tampa Bay, off to a 4-0 start after 14 losing seasons in a row, will attempt to match the best start in their National Football League history here on Sunday against Arizona.

The Buccaneers, led by top-rated quarterback Trent Dilfer, went 5-0 in 1979, when they reached the American football playoff semi-finals before losing to the Los Angeles Rams.

"We were optimistic coming into this season, but to be 4-0 at this point is not something we expected would happen," owner Bryan Glazer said.

Tampa Bay are one week away from an away showdown with reigning Super Bowl champion and NFC Central Division Green Bay. But they must first dispose of a 1-2 Arizona club that beat Dallas before having last week off.

Dilfer has completed 59 of 94 passes for 720 yards and eight touchdowns, surpassing even two-time NFL Most Valuable Player Brett Favre through the first quarter of the season.

One year ago, Dilfer was among the worst passers in the league and the Buccaneers were also-rans wearing orange uniforms that had been the butt of jokes around the league for decades.

Now the club has a new attitude to match its new uniforms, which are red, black and silver. Helmets feature a skull and crossed swords on a flag rather than the former design, a plumed pirate with a knife in his teeth.

Two other NFL unbeaten, Denver and Jacksonville, put their status on the line Sunday in away games. The Broncos travel to winless Atlanta while Jacksonville visit Washington (2-1).

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Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. announces the extension of the A.M. tender until 28.10.1997 instead of 28.9.1997 to read as follows:-  
\* Offers must be submitted at the company's Head Office not later than (12:00) Hrs of Sunday 28.10.1997.

Chairman

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